

**HISTORY OF THE ANGRES OF KOLABA**  
(1640 to 1840 A. D.)

A Thesis Submitted  
To  
The University of Mumbai  
For

7770

The Degree of  
**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**  
IN HISTORY

BY  
**MRS. AMITA TATHARE**

7770

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF  
**DR. V. G. KHOBREKAR**  
DIRECTOR

**PTILAS SANSHODHAN MANDAL,**  
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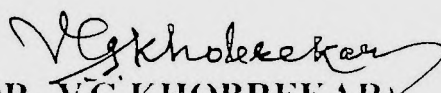
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## C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that Mrs. Amita A. Tathare has duly completed her thesis for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy of the University of Mumbai and this thesis entitled "**History of the Angres of Kolaba (1640 to 1840 A.D.)**" is upto the standards, both in respect of its contents and literary presentation, of being referred to an examiner.

I further certify that the entire work has been done under my guidance and no part of it has been submitted previously, for any degree or diploma of any university.

  
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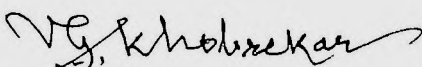
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(DR.V.G.KHOBREKAR)

  
(MRS. AMITA TATHARE)

(B) **STATEMENT REQUIRED UNDER ORDINANCE 0.771**

The result of this work includes a study of new facts and different interpretations. The study throws new light on the contribution of Angres which hitherto has not been the subject of close study. The thesis is based on many published primary sources and unpublished primary sources from Mumbai and Pune Archives Itihas Sanshodan Mandal, Mumbai & Pune and I have undertaken study tours to the different places, connected with the history of Angres of Kolaba (1640 to 1840 AD).

Date :



  
(Mrs. Amita Tathare)

**P R E F A C E**  
**HISTORY OF THE ANGRES OF KOLABA**  
**(1640 to 1840 A.D.)**

A comprehensive history of the Angres of Kolaba (1640 to 1840 A.D.) is a desideratum. No attempt at writing an authentic and comprehensive history of the Angres of Kolaba (1640 to 1840 A.D.) has been made so far.

The historical account of Kanhoji Angre has been given by Dr. Surendranath Sen entitled "Early career of Kanhoji Angria and other papers". Damodar Gopal Dhabu, in his Marathi book "Kolabkar Angre Sarkhel, Angre Gharanyacha Itihas" has dealt the Angres with the Angres' story of rise and fall but not narrated description of boundaries of Angres' territory, area, production, modes of cultivation, modes and rates of assessment, sources of revenue, mode of collection and social and economic aspects. Manohar Malgaokar gives us "Kanhoji Angre, Maratha Admiral - an account of his life and his battles with the English". Dr. K. Jagjit Singh has done "A study in Anglo-Angria relations by giving us account of struggle for supremacy" without referring to the most of contemporary records in Marathi. In spite of the important position that the house of Angres occupied in Maratha politics no systematic attempt has been made so far, to narrate the story of rise and fall of the Angres with economic and social aspects of Angrian territory.



The thesis is an attempt to give a detailed account of the political history of the Angres of Kolaba till 1840 in which the Angres' principality lapsed to the British Government. Along with this, an attempt is also made to describe Maratha navy and to narrate agriculture, crops, survey and assessment of Angrian territory and collection of revenue and sources of revenue. The task is enormous and almost exhausting, but is of great interest at the same time.

The thesis is divided into ten chapters. The line of argument pursued in this work is briefly indicated below :-

The opening chapter "The political situation in Konkan before the rise of the Angres is an introduction necessary to the subject matter of the thesis. It starts as follows :-

The Angres belong to Konkan which is land between the Arabian sea on the west side and the steep mountain wall of the Western Ghats on the east. During the 16th century the Portuguese secured firm footing on the western coast especially in the districts of Colaba and Thane. Portuguese established their mastery over the Indian ocean in the 16th century and they prohibited the ships of other nations from plying in it without Portuguese permit. Later the Dutch and the British came to India. The maritime activities of these foreginers were watched by Shivaji who thought of capturing Konkan and building the navy.

The second chapter opens with Kanhoji's operations in Konkan. During the first decade of the eighteenth century Kanhoji

Angre emerges as a strong power. He controlled about 300 miles of coast line from Kolaba to Vengurla, almost the whole of Konkan. He was in conflict with the English and the Portuguese who admitted his supremacy and skill as an admiral who “sailed the Arabian sea in triumph”. Kanhoji who had this unique distinction of maintaining his naval power against England, Holland and Portugal was the greatest naval hero of India who passed away in 1729.

The Third chapter narrates us how his son, Sekhoji who was appointed as admiral of the Maratha fleet was an equally intrepid commander.

The Fourth chapter deals with the dispute between Angre brothers for power and it is full of Angres' achievements against the Sidis of Janjira.

In the Fifth chapter, furnishes how Peshwas got advantage of failure of the Angre brothers in coming to an understanding among themselves. The Peshwas made arrangements to isolate the naval command and dry up the sources of the Maratha fleet. Even then in 1779 Tulaji Angre fought off the British man of war Restoration. As said by K M Panikkar at that time the Maratha Navy was supreme from Kutch to Cochin. The English remained obsessed with the idea of destroying the house of Angres. The Peshwa Balaji Bajirao joined the English and the combined forces of the two powers defeated Tulaji Angre whose whole fleet was engulfed in fire and was destroyed. The power of the Angre on the sea was thus destroyed forever.



In the Sixth chapter the relations between the Marathas and the English became less and less cordial. The Angres became subordinate to the Peshwa. The chapter concludes how Raghuji Angre's presence on the west coast was felt by the English in Bombay.

The Seventh chapter encompasses how Manaji and Baburao Angre managed the affairs of Angres' Kingdom. During their regime from 1794 to 1817 the trade of the English suffered, their ships were captured, their men were taken as prisoners and their goods were seized. The Angres who were divided, began quarrelling amongst themselves. This division weakened their strength and reduced their capacity to harm the English at Bombay.

The Chapter Eighth deals with the career of Manaji and Raghuji Angre till 1839. After the fall of the Marathas in 1818, the Angres became subordinate to the English power. Thereafter the relations between the Kolaba chief Raghuji Angre II and the British Government were fixed by a treaty under which the British supremacy and their right of investiture were recognised. After the death of Raghuji Angre II, the Bombay Government recognised his infant son as the chief of Kolaba under the title of Kanhoji II. Unfortunately the infant chief Kanhoji II died on 9th April 1840, in which year Angres' principality lapsed to the British for want of legitimate successor.

The Ninth chapter deals with boundaries of the Angres territory, soil, agriculture, crops, survey and assessment of land,



sources of revenue and economic and social aspects. This information is collected from the Angres' Daftar housed in the Poona Archives.

In the last Chapter an attempt is made to give description of strength and organisation of Angres' navy. There were five types of Maratha warships under the Angres. A brief survey of each of these types is given. Ship building material was available in Konkan so also a technique of ship-building was known to the natives of Konkan. A comprehensive study of the English, Portuguese and the Angres' navy revealed the superiority of Angres' navy over other powers. Information regarding organisation and administration of the Maratha navy under Kanhoji has found a place in this chapter.

Achievement of the Angres till 1756 was that they overcame their adversaries and successfully maintained the claims of the Marathas to the sovereignty of the sea. They built up a strong navy which was dreaded by its enemies till 1756. The Angres got ruined due to civil wars.

During a span of thirty years, Angres fought three civil wars with each other. They began quarreling amongst themselves. This division weakened their strength and reduced their capacity to harm the English at Bombay. The English kept up their dissension. This policy yielded rich dividends and resulted in complete ruin of the house of the Angres.



## ABBREVIATIONS

### FROM MANUSCRIPT RECORDS :

Angre Daftar	Pune Archives
H.D.	Home Department, Bombay
Prant Ajmas	Dakshin Konkan Rumals Pune Archives
P.D.	Political Department, Bombay
Pub.D.	Public Department, Diaries, Bombay
Sawantwadi R.	Sawantwadi Records in Bombay R.D.
Sec. & P.D.	Secret and Political Department Diaries, Bombay
S.P.R.	Selected Papers for further Research Poona, Peshwa Daftar
S.F.D.	Surat Factory Diaries.

### FOR PRINTED WORKS :

Aitchison	A selection of Treaties, Engagement and Sanads Vol III, Calcutta, 1863
B.I.S.M.	Bharat Itihas Samshodhak Mandal Quarterly
Broughton	Letters written in a Maratta Camp in the year 1809, Calcutta : K.P. Bagchi & Co. 1977



Briggs-Ferishta	History of the Rise of the Mohomedan Power in India : Translation by Mohomed Kasim Ferishta. Tr. J. Briggs.
Forrest Selection	Selection from the State Papers (Vol I) from the SRO, Bombay
Gense Banaji	The Third English Embassy to Poona, 1934.
Lekh Sangraha	Aitihāsik Lekh Sangraha by V.V. Khare
M.R.O.	Madras Record Office, Fort St. George, Diary & Consultations
M.I.S.	Marathyan̄chya Itihāsachi Sadh by V.K. Rajwade
N.H.M.	New History of the Marathas by G.S. Sardesai
Peshwa Roznishi	Selections from the Satara Raja and Peshwa Diaries by C.G. Vad
Pillai Diary	Anand Ranga Pillai Diary Edited by Dodwell and Price.
P.R.C.	Poona Residency Correspondence Gen. Eds. - Sir Jadunath Sarkar and G.S. Sardesai
Sen	Surendranath Sen : Administrative system of the Marathas : Military System of the Marathas
SPD	Selections from the Peshwa Daftar Ed. by G.S. Sardesai

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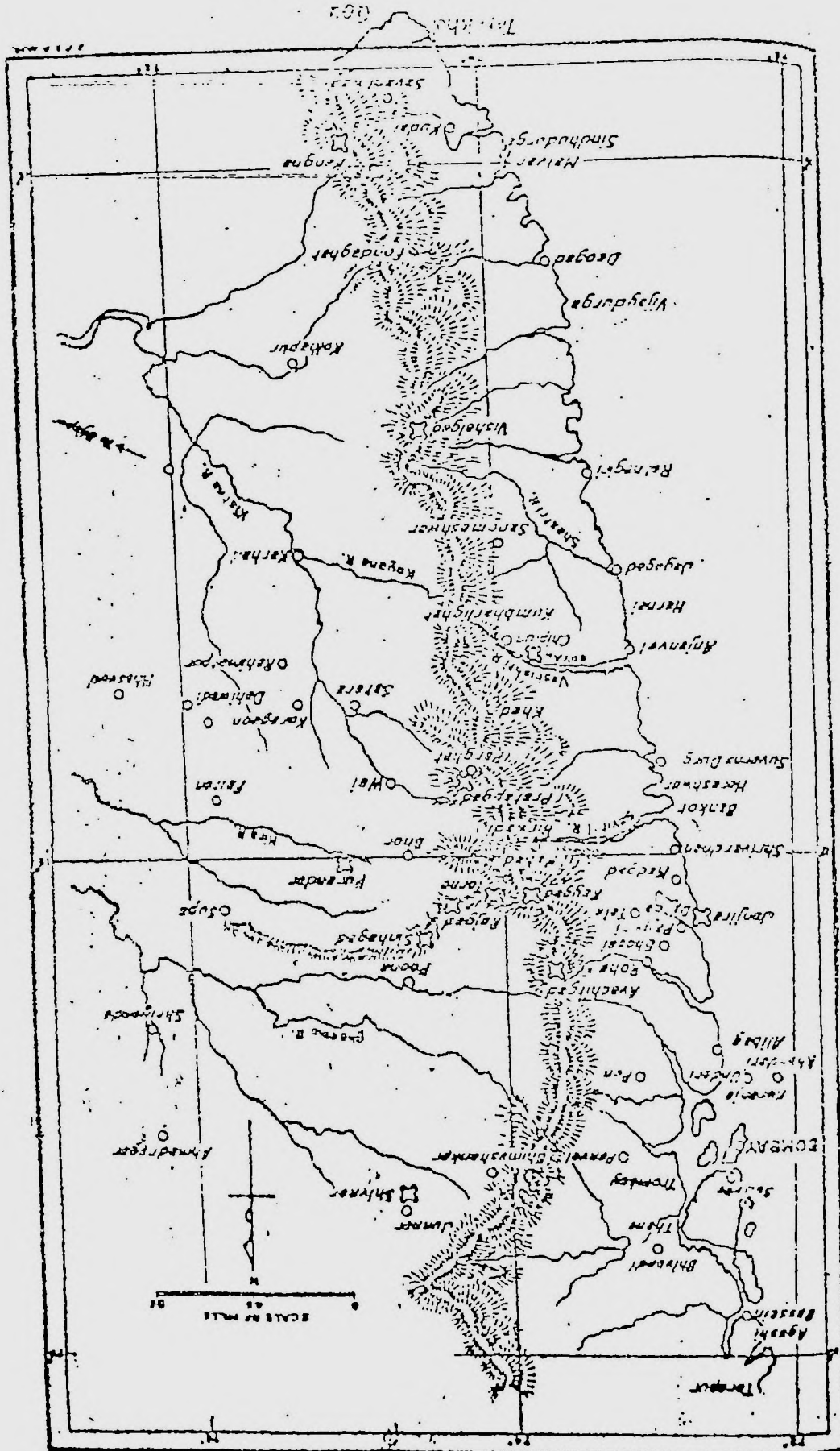
*Finally, I express sincere gratitude to my husband, and all my family members whose loving care and motivation was the only force to let me carry on in spite of all difficulties.*

*Last but not the least, I thank God Almighty, for giving me the strength and endurance to move ahead.*



**Mrs.Amita Tathare**

# MAP OF KOHKAN



## C O N T E N T S

Statements (0.770 & 0.771)

Preface

Maps

Abbreviations

<u>Chapter</u>		<u>Page</u>
I	The Trade on The Konkan Coast Before The Rise of Angres.	1 - 27
II	Kanhoji Angre 1694-1729	28 - 97
III	Sekhoji (1729-1733 A. D.)	98 - 124
IV	Sambhaji And Manaji crippled Sidi's Power 1733-43 & 1734-1757	125 - 176
V	Sarkhel Tulaji Angre 1742 to 1756	177 - 193
VI	Raghuji Angre 1761 To 1793	194 - 216
VII	Manaji Angre and Baburao Angre (1794 To 1817 A.D.)	217 - 253
VIII	Manaji and Raghuji Angre upto 1818-1839 A.D.	254 - 279
IX	Economic and Social Aspects of The Angrian Territory	280 - 324
X	Angres' Navy. their Achievements And Assessment	325 - 357
	Select-Bibliography	358 - 367



## **CHAPTER I**

### **THE TRADE ON THE KONKAN COAST BEFORE THE RISE OF ANGRES**

The Angres of Kolaba were maritime power in the 18th century on the western coast of India. They sprang up from Kolaba in Konkan. The Konkan is described as a country of stratified primary rocks, the hills being composed of layers of trap, varying in composition, and capped by a layer of laterite while the alluvial and diuvial soil of the valleys is the result of disintegration and decomposition of these rocks carried down by the drainage from the hills. Over a total length of over 300 miles and an average breadth of 40 miles, the Konkan can boast of but a small proportion of level surface, the entire track is rugged in the extreme. In the northern division the country, presents a series of attached ranges, of various degrees elevation and running apparently in every direction, with their slopes and sometimes also with their summits clothed with dense forest. Konkan, which is mentioned as Aparanta in the 5th Girnar inscription of Ashoka, literally means the end of the western direction. This western strip of land is beautifully favoured by nature. On one side there is Arabian Sea and the inner parts of the country are full of Sahyadri ranges. In ancient period, the ports on the sea-coasts were well-connected with inland market towns. This natural atmosphere augmented the sea-borne trade and commerce artistic embellishments at Kuda, Mahad, Junnar



and Kanheri. The Konkan area is divided into two major parts: North Konkan and South Konkan. Its long coast line and convenient harbours made it known to the earliest travellers visiting India.

Living in close proximity to the sea, the power in western India have from the earliest times realized the value of the navy, as an important arm of warfare. As early as the first century of the Christian era, the Andhrabhrityas, we have it on the authority of Ptolemy, employed this weapon to levy tribute from the merchant men that piled between the coasts of India and Egypt.

The prosperity of the Satavahanas was the result of their trade with the western countries like Rome, Greece and Egypt. There was very brisk and wide-spread inland trade also. This fact is testified by the Greek travellers and Geographers. According to them, there were a number of market towns along with the western part of the Deccan plateau like Paithan, Tagara, Junnar, Poona, Kolhapur, Vanavar, etc. These towns were linked with the ports and harbours of the western-coast region. Among these ports Barygaza (Bharoch), Sopara, Kalian, Cheul were significant. The unknown author of the periplus of the Erythrean sea has given a very graphic description of these activities. Accordingly, below Barygaza stood the port of Sopara, the Soupara of Ptolemy, the Supara of Periplus, the Soparaha or Sopara of epigraphic records and modern Nalasopara in Thana district. Kalyan, on the eastern shore of the Bombay harbour, the Kalinna of inscriptions and the Calliene of the Periplus was a prosperous trading and industrial centre. Besides

these, there were many other important ports situated on the west coast. Simyalla, the modern Cheul, about twenty five miles south of Bombay harbour (the Simyalla of Ptolemy, the Chimulo of Yuan-Chwang and the Chemula of the two Kanheri inscription, was also the important Satavahana port. During the times of emergency i.e. when the Sakas took hold of Kalyan and the other upper western ports the Satavahana carried their trade through Cheul.

Aparanta was under the Satavahanas till the rise of the Sakas and Kshatrapas to the political power. Lord Kanishka was the founder of Kushan empire in India. He possessed a very vast territory including the Gujaratha, Saurashtra, Central India, Northern Maharashtra and Konkan. He began his era in 78 A.D. and he appointed the Kshatrapas or the Provincial Governors to look after the province. "Bhumaka" was the first Kshatrpa to be appointed in Maharashtra. Bhumaka ruled upto saka 20 or 98 A.D. Then he was succeeded by Nahapana, who ruled upto saka 46 or 124 A.D. This Nahapana was a very powerful Kshatrapas and extended his influence southwards along the western coast and held Aparanta and adjoining ports of Mulaka territory, perhaps upto Vijayanti in the Kuntal country. The Nasik inscription of his son-in-law speaks a lot about the former's victory. It would then follow that Nahapana inflicted a crushing defeat on the contemporary Satavahana King. This might have happened during the reign of either Chakar, the grand father or the father of the mighty Gautami Putra Satavahana.

Then he blocked the western ports including Kalyan and Sopara to the Satavahanas. The Satavahanas tried to open a new port of Cheul.



However it proved a futile effort. Then they tried with Bharoch on the banks of Narmada. However, this effort also was not successful and the Satavahana power received a great set-back as it had to pass through great restraint.

At this time, their capital was at Pratisthan and they had to carry their caravans to Bharoch, a journey of 20 days according to Periplus. This state of affair is reflected in foreign and local accounts. Because of this blockade and the threat of the Kshatrapas, the Satavahanas had to shift capital from Pratisthan to Dhanyakokataka.

In such state of affair, Gautami Putra Satakarni came to throne. He tolerated this affair for the early 17 years of his reign and decided to measure his sword against Nahapana. After consolidating his power, he embarked him but captured his entire territory and killed him in the saka 46 or 124 A.D. This is the reason why he was honoured as a 'Satavahanakula-Yasha Pratishthapanakara'. Thus, he recovered in his 18th regional year the Nasik-Poona region, Aparanta and Kuntal, sent a fleet to Vijayanti. He minted the silver coins of Nahapana and thus avenged the atrocities committed by Nahapana on the Satavahana Kula. To celebrate this occasion he performed the Ashvamedha sacrifice. He issued the coins bearing ten-arched hills which corresponds to the ten geographical units which he reconquered from the Kshatrapa.

So Aparanta was under the Satavahanas for early three centuries. It played a significant role in achieving the economic advancement of the region. It was the centre of the Satavahana trade with western countries. It provided the base to the Satavahana naval power. The



Satavahana ports and harbours were located on this coast only. Hence all the ports were the centres of industry and trade. These ports were head-quarters of the traders and of many trade guides. Buddhism was the popular religion of the then trading community who in their turn donated huge sums for the spread and propagation of Buddhism; which can be corroborated through the several inscriptions of western cave temples. Quite a large number of caves were excavated during the region of the Satavahana, the important among them are at Ambivale, Kanheri, Kol, Kondane, Kondivite, Mahad Kuda, Nadsur and Vaisarge. There are about two hundred caves containing 85 inscriptions in these caves which speak a volume of the prosperity of the Satavahana reign in Aparanta.

After the fall of the Satavahanas, the Traikutas appear to have held the Konkan in the 4th century, but early Rashtrakuta (375 to 400 A.D.) also held possession of the Konkan (Nairne 13). Traikutas were very powerful rulers. They extended their sway.

Upto Konkan and even in the ghats, the Mahayana Buddhism was well spread during the rule of the Traikutas. Thereafter the Vakatakas ruled over this part. Thereafter, the Mauryas seem to have ruled over Konkan during 4th and 6th century. The Chalukyas of Badami (Dist. Bihiapur) rose as a supreme power of the Deccan in the middle of the 6th century. They drove out the Mauryas from Konkan after the conquest of their maritime capital Puri by sea with navy. The capital of the Mauryas, Puri is described in the records as 'Goddess of Fortune' which indicates the maritime glory of Mauryas who ruled over Goa from

Kumardwip. Due to strategic position and commercial importance of the Goa-coast, the Chalukyas ruled over South Konkan directly through their Princes, Indravarman (590 A.D.), Chandraditya and his wife Vijayabhattacharya during 6th to 8th century, from Rewatidwip i.e. modern Reddi, north of Terekhole. The sea-borne trade was interrupted by the Persians who had settled down in colonies on the west coast of India, from the 5th century.

About the middle of 6th century, King of the Maurya and Nala dynasties appear to have been ruling in Konkan. A stone inscription from Vada in the north of Thana district shows that a Mauryan king by the name Suketu Varma was then ruling in the Konkan.

This part was a great seat of activities of Jains whose seat of Government was Soparaha. Many years Jainism was the state religion in the Ratnagiri district.

During the period 540-757 A.D., there was a powerful dynasty known as the Chalukyas who ruled over Konkan territory including Goa. In the copper plate grants issued by Chalukyas, the north Konkan is referred to as Puri Konkan. The grants of Shilaharas and Kadambas of later period might have been originated during the Chalukyas administration.

After the suppression of the sovereignty of the Badami Chalukyas, the Rashtrakuta's monarch Dantidurga laid down the foundation of the imperial dynasty of the Rashtrakutas in 753 A.D. They ruled over the Deccan for over 250 years from 755 to 973 A.D. The Rashtrakutas

were overthrown by the Kalyani Chalukyas around 980 A.D. and the supremacy of the Deccan including Konkan went into the hands of the old masters. The Rashtrakutas and also later Chalukyas looked upon Konkan as their feudatory province and only the Shilaharas and later on the Kadambas of Goa (from 1020 A.D.) ruled over Konkan. Shilaharas and the Kadambas were maritime powers who defended the sea and maintained trade relations with countries from west Asia and East Africa.

There were three families of the Shilaharas - South Konkan or Goa (750 to 1020 A.D.) North Konkan or Thana (800 to 1250 A.D.) and Kolhapur or Valivade. These three Shilahars houses ruled in western India. The oldest of these, ruled over southern Konkan, popularly known was Shilaharas of Thana which came into prominence at about 800 A.D. and ruled for a period of four centuries. All along Shilaharas were feudataries in status. They owned their allegiance first to the Rashtrakutas, then to Chalukyas as well as Kadambas and finally to the Yadavas of Devgiri. The Kadamba ruler, Jayakesin II (1125 to 1147 A.D.) had styled himself as the Lord of southern as well as northern Konkan. The last Shilahara ruler, Someshwara (1240 to 1260 A.D.) was defeated and killed by the Yadava ruler, Mahadeo (1260 to 1272 A.D.). Thereafter the Konkan was annexed to the territories of Yadavas. The Yadavas of Devgiri ruled over Deccan including Konkan from the days of Singhana (1200 to 1247 A.D.) down to Ramchandra or Ramdeva (1271 to 1310 A.D.) and his son Singhana (1311 to 1313 A.D.). In 1296 Alauddin Khilji of Delhi swooped on Ramdev, the Yadav ruler of Devgiri

and forced him to submit. Malik Kafur the General of Alauddin annexed Deogiri and fixed his residence at Deogiri in 1313 A.D. The era of Khilji imperialism was followed by the rule of the Tughluqs. During the reign of Muhammad bin Tughluq his officer, the Omiran-i Sadah rose in open rebellion against the central authority and founded the Bahamani Kingdom in 1347 A.D.

The founder Ala-ud-din Bahman Shah ruled for eleven years. He put down opposition from nobles still loyal to their Tughlak Suzerain and succeeded by war and diplomacy in imposing his sway over a large territory which extended from the Penganga in the north to the Krishna in the south and from Bhongir in the east to the sea on the west, and included the ports of Goa and Dabhol.

It may be pointed out that the Bahamani rule was never stable on the western coast inspite of repeated expeditions undertaken by the Bahamanis against the local chiefs, especially the Raja of Sangameshvar. They no doubt paid tribute and submitted in the face of an invasion by a huge force under a Bahamani general, but no sooner did the Bahamani army retire, than the local chiefs would again raise their heads and administer the country as independent chiefs. No Bahamani general proved equal to the task of putting down the chiefs permanently; partly because no Bahamani general whole-heartedly undertook an invasion and partly because topography of the region made it difficult to effect its permanent subjugation. In 1447, the Sultan, therefore ordered Malik-ut-Tujjar, the Governor of Daulatabad, to undertake the campaign on the south Konkan region and established Bahamani authority over the



region. Khalaf Hasán was especially instructed to punish Raja Sankar Rav Sirke, the chief of a fortified place, surrounded by thick and dense jungles. Khalaf Hasan made elaborate preparations for the arduous campaign and arrived at Chakan with 10,000 cavalry and made it his base of operations. The cavalry consisted of 7,000 Deccanis and 3,000 Arabs. Khalaf Hasan fortified Chakan and started on his Konkan expedition. With the help of the well-trained and well-equipped army under his command Khalaf Hasan succeeded in subjugating most of the chiefs and capturing their fortresses. The Raja Sankar Rav Sirke offered stiff resistance. He was, however, defeated and captured by Malik-ul-Tujjar. The Raja agreed to pay the tribute, embrace Islam and lead the Bahamani army to the principality of Sangameshvar. However, the Raja was thinking entirely in different terms and his submission was only a pretext to free himself from his present predicament. When the Bahamani army started on its forward march, little did it know that it was entering a death trap. The Raja deliberately took a tortuous route, running through dense jungles and surrounded by mountainous regions. A few of the Bahamani cavalry refused to go along, being terrified at the prospects of a long march and retired to Chakan. A few days journey brought the advancing army at the mouth of a death where they halted completely fatigued and thirsty. From here Raja Sankar Rav secretly sent a message to the chief of Sangameshvar and informed him of the excellent opportunity of wiping out the entire Bahamani contingent while it lay asleep in thick jungles. The Raja understood the message and sent an army of 30,000 consisting of lancers, archers and matchlock men. The army approached and took positions surrounding the entire



camp. When night descended and when the Bahamani soldiers were fast asleep in the camp the army of Sangameshvar suddenly attacked the camp. There was confusion all over. Practically, the entire Bahamani contingent was put to sword. Malik-ul-Tujjar with five hundred Sayyads from Medina, Najaf and Karbala who formed part of the Bahamani contingent was killed. The entire Bahamani camp was turned into a battle-field with the bodies of the dead soldiers strewn all over and the atmosphere filled with the wailings and cries of the dying and wounded. The soldiers who were fortunate to escape the ambush managed to reach Chakan to carry news of the grim tragedy that had befallen the Bahamani army. The disaster destroyed whatever vestiges of Bahamani rule had remained in the Konkan region. It was only owing to the ascendancy of Mahmud Gawan that the Bahamanis again succeeded in subjugating the region.

After Gawan came the deluge. The Bahamani empire split up into five kingdoms as follows :

- 1) Imadshahi of Berar in 1484
- 2) Adilshahi of Bijapur in 1489
- 3) Nizamshahi of Ahmednagar in 1490
- 4) Qutubshahi of Golconda in 1518 and
- 5) Baridshahi of Bidar in 1526.

Out of the five kingdoms referred to above the Imadshahi was absorbed by Ahmednagar in 1574 and the Baridshahi by Bijapur in 1609. From the point of view of Konkan history, the Nizamshahi and the

Adilshahi which played important role in the 17th century must engage most of our immediate attention. By the close of 15th century, Gujarat extended its sway over the Konkan coast. The lower area of the north Konkan coast was under Gujarat. But according to Duarte Barbosa, a factor was appointed at Chaul by the Portuguese in 1515.

Varthema\* also mentions that there was a Gujarat Governor at Nagothana and that in 1540 there were Gujarat commandants of the hill forts of Karnala in Panvel and Sakhasi in Pen.

The importance of Konkan during the medieval times lay both in its own potential as a 'manufacturing, collecting and distributing centre' as well as in its capacity to attract foreign merchants to its coast. The ports of the Konkan not only acted as outlets for its hinter land production centre but were vital for the ships from the South East Asia heading for the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf region and vice versa. The difficulties faced by the merchants vessels to finish their Asian voyages in one season made it pertinent for them to rest on the Konkan ports. When the Portuguese started their settlements in India during the 16th century, some ports on this coast were their early acquisitions. Goa was captured from the Bijapuri Kingdom as early as 1510 A.D. The Portuguese enjoyed considerable freedom over the seas till the end of the 16th century when other Europeans also stepped in.

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\*Varthema Ludovico, The Itinerary of Ludovico Verthema of Bologna, from 1502 to 1508 translated by Sir Richard Carnac Temple, London, 1929, Chitnis p.482.





Thus the Portuguese were the first group of Europeans who established themselves on the Konkan coast during the 16th century. They had their possessions in Bessein, Cheul and Goa while even Dabhol and Rajapur were not free from their influence. The Konkan coast during this period had brisk commercial relations with the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf regions and ships used to depart from the Konkan ports laden with goods for Portugal.

The structure of the carrying trade of the region underwent considerable transformation during the 17th century when the Dutch, the English and the French also started claiming a share in this trade. From the beginning of this century the Dutch and the English especially, sought to establish trading relations with Cheul, Dabhol, Rajapur & Goa. The English established their factory at Rajapur, the Dutch opened their's at Vengurla and the French settled themselves at Rajapur. Thus the 17th century was marked on the one hand by a decline of the Portuguese in the Indian waters and on the other, by attempts of the Dutch and the English to step into the void created by the slackening of the Portuguese control.

Here a brief account of the commercial importance of different Konkan ports should be given to help us trace the trading relations of the region with other parts of the world. The land area or the hinterland corresponding to the Konkan largely comprised of the two kingdoms of Ahmednagar and Bijapur. Writing of Ahmednagar during the early years of the 16th century, Barbosa says, 'it has very good seaports of great trade in the goods used on the mainland, the chief

being Cheul in Kolaba about 30 miles south of Bombay. Da Barros describes Cheul as a city which in population and size was one of the most important of that coast. Its importance lay on account of its excellent position as an entrepot for Malabar and Cambay ships. Cheul was famous for its silk stuffs, embroidered quilts and cotton stuffs. Thana and Kalyan and Bhiwandi were also important centres of textile production. The other important port in the northern Konkan was Bassein which was under Portuguese possession. Towards the close of the 16th Century it is mentioned as 'one of the places of most trade in corn and rice on the coast'. It was a centre of ship-building industry and a major supplier of timber for the whole region.

Further south, Dabhol was the principal sea outlet of the Bijapur kingdom. Jourdain informs us that from Dabhol two or three ships of great burden and for richer than those that went from Surat every year sailed to the Red Sea and two very rich ships used to go to Ormuz.

Dabhol merchants were trading in the South East Asia also as well as informed by Middleton, 'the fourth day' came other ship and of Dabhol, which landed at Achin with pepper; these great ships belong all to the Governor of Dabhol, who was a Persian and a great merchant. In 1611 the English East India Company included Dabhol in its scheme of establishing commercial relations with the western coast of India. Middleton visited Dabhol in 1612 and was welcomed by the Governor there.

In 1617, Sir Thomas Roe also wrote a letter to the Governor asking him to start trade with English.



Jaitapur and Vengurla were other important ports of the Konkan. Jaitapur was in fact the sea outlet of Rajapur which was famous for its muslin, indigo and pepper. In 1638-39, the first Free Traders or the 'Interlopers', the association of Sir William Courteen established a factory at Rajapur. Afterwards Courteen's Association was incorporated into the East India Company and the factory at Rajapur continued as before. The French had also established a factory at Rajapur in 1667. The English factors refer to the good terms prevailing between the French factors and Shivaji at Rajapur during the 1670s. Abbe Carre, a French man, passing through Rajapur and Cheul was treated very gently by Shivaji's men.

Vengurla where the Dutch had their settlements, was also important because it could provide platform for the anchoring ships. It is referred to as a 'large town half a league along the coast, with one of the best roads in India where all the vessels that come from Batavia, Japan, Bengal and Ceylon and those bound for Surat, Ormuz and the Red Sea, both coming and going anchored, both water & rice being excellent. Vengurla was also reputed for good quality spices and cardamoms it produced. It was also famous for its coarse cloth and hemp matting that served for packing goods.

Thus the fact of having a number of ports and the availability of diverse type of commodities, enabled Konkan to participate actively in the Asian trade to the Red Sea, Persian Gulf and even to the Spice Islands used to touch Rajapur and Goa. Ships being laden at Surat for English in case of insufficient cargo used to go to the Konkan ports

to fetch export commodity. In a letter to the company an English factor writes, "As letters received from Goa brought no news of the arrival of the 'John' on that coast it has now been determined to send the 'Hart' to Rajapur to fetch cardamoms and pepper waiting there, as they are wanted for lading the 'Crispiana'. Della Valle tells about the arrival of ships at Cheul from Muscat and Basra. On his way back to Europe he even took freight on a ship which was going from Cheul to Basra. Jourdan during his stay at Mocha, noticed the presence of 'Bananès (Banias) of Dabull, Cheul, Bazins (Bassein), apart from other places. Linshotten who came to India towards the close of 16th century noticed Cheul ships going to the Red Sea or the Straits of Mecca. Dabhol Junks were trading in the Red Sea as early as 1619 when they were attacked by the Dutch. The Dutch were trying to enforce the same system of Cartazes as the Portuguese had done earlier and hence same into clash with Indian Merchants. In one of such conflicts, two Dabhol vessels were captured by the Dutch which further embittered relations between the Konkani merchants and the Dutch.

Konkan's trading relations with the outside world, however, were not free from occasional hazards. The reference here is to interference caused by the European merchants to the Indian trade. The reasons are not very difficult to be gauged. India had a long association with foreign merchants on its various ports and hence the Europeans were also welcomed on the Konkan coast. But the European companies were a totally different group representing very different political and economic institutions and ideology. To them the Indian economic environment and its commercial institutions appeared, or at least they claimed

so, unsafe and unsuitable for peaceful trading. They in any case hardly believed in peacing trading with merchantilism in its very vigorous form holding away all over Europe. They attempted to penetrate into the marked and the production centres, to control them and to monopolise the trade on the basis of their superiority on the sea. Their naval might was, of course, considerable compared to the Indian powers of the time but the latter could not be challenged on the land. This situations naturally led to a series of conflicts involving Indian merchants of the Konkan and the Servants of the European companies.

The Portuguese control over the eastern waters was virtually complete in 1534. They regarded themselves lords of the seas and decided not to allow anyone in the East from kings down to ordinary merchants to navigate the seas without their permission. They envolved the system of cartazes to enforce this decision.

The Cartaz was a sailing permit issued by the Portuguese either at Goa or at any other port of factory of theirs, depending upon the destination of the native vessel for which the cartaz was sought. A vessel sailing across the Arbain Sea or to the Bay of Bengal had to secure a cartaz at Goa. A cartaz issued at a factory or a fort was enough for a ship sailing along the west coast of India. A few was charged for the cartaz. Usually a cartaz was valid for one year. It specified the articals which the vessel was not to carry and the ports which she was not to enter. She was liable to confiscation if any of the provisions or the cartaz was violated of course, the Portuguese could not impose the system of cartazes on all Indian princes even in the 16th





century and thereafter. As Barros puts it, the European rival were Christian and therefore their right to navigate the seas freely had to be recognised. During the 17th and 18th centuries the Portuguese had very little control over the sea and their system of cartaz could hardly be imposed on the Indian princes.

**Portuguese Maratha relations :**

The Portuguese became concerned with the activities of Shivaji, the founder of the Marathan power, when he extended his territories to the Konkan and began to establish a navy. By 1659 he had a fleet of twenty warships and some merchant ships. The vessels were anchored at different ports, namely, Bhiwandi, Kalyan and Panvel. A large number of Portuguese nations, some of whom were fortune seekers and some deserters had entered Shivaji's service and worked for the establishment of his navy. Rui Leita Viegas was appointed to command the fleet. He was asked to obtain permission from the Portuguese authorities to take the ships out to the sea. The latter, however, decided not only to prevent the ships from sailing out but also to scuttle Shivaji's efforts to possess a navy. There were two reasons for their decision. First, they wanted to help their friend, the Siddi of Danda-Rajapuri, with whom Shivaji was at war. The latter was actually planning to send the fleet against the Siddi. The second reason was that the Portuguese feared that one day Shivaji might use his fleet against them. Accordingly, they refused to permit his ships to sail out of his ports. They also succeeded in persuading Viegas and more than three hundred other fellow compatriots, who were assisting Shivaji in

his navy to desert all at once. This was a severe blow to the Maratha King but he was not a man who could be stopped from his cherished goal. And the Portuguese could not prevent his naval progress to any appreciable extent.

The Marathas constructed boats and ships. As early as 1657, Shivaji took Kalyan and Bhivandi in the North Konkan which was under Adilshahi. Along with other important places, Shivaji seized Cheul, the ancient port on the coast of Kolaba and fortified it. He then started the construction of the coastal fort of Vajaydurg. In order to build a large navy and forts, Shivaji had already made his plan. During the period 1653 to 1680, the naval forts of Vijaydurg, Suvarnadurg and Kolaba were completed by Shivaji. It was in 1659 that Shivaji's first war vessels were launched on the creeks near Kalyan, Bhivandi and Panvel and were found plying the sea and provoking the alarm and opposition of the Portuguese. With the extension of his power along the entire West Coast, down to the frontier of Goa, the rapid increase of Shivaji's navy became necessary and profitable. Shivaji well knew that without naval supremacy his position would be precarious. He therefore made every endeavour to augment his naval power. In the words of Sabhasad, "The Rajah put the saddle in the ocean." According to the Marathi sources, Shivaji's fleet consisted of 400 vessels of various sizes and classes, such as Ghurabs (gun boats), Tarandes, Tarambles, Gullivats, Shibars, Pagars, machawas etc. They were formed into 2 squadrons commanded by two admirals viz. Daria Sarang (Admiral of the Ocean) and Mai Nayak. Soon after getting possession of the ports in North Konkan, Shivaji began to engage in foreign trade on his own

account. Early in 1660 he captured at Rajapur one of the junks of Afzalkhan and turned it to his own use. In February 1663, the English at Surat reported that Shivaji was fitting out two ships of considerable burden for trading with Mocha (in western Arabia), and sent them via Jaitapur. On 12th of March 1665, Shivaji sent two or three more trading vessels yearly to Persia, Basra, Mocha etc. In April 1669, some of his ships were destroyed by storm. On 26th June 1664, the Surat factor reported that Shivaji was fitting out a fleet of 60 frigates, for an attack on some unknown quarter, probably to surprise all junks and vessels belonging to that port and to way lay them on their return from Basra and Persia.. It was in February 1665 that Shivaji's fleet of 85 frigates and three large ships conveyed his army to Nasrur for the plunder of South Kanara. Shivaji had already started plundering Mughal ships because the Emperor had no fleet of his own in the Indian ocean able to cope with the Marathas. In 1669 Shivaji attacked the Siddi of Janjira. In October, the Siddi was very hard pressed by Shivaji that Janjira was in danger of being starved into surrender but the Siddi's abyssian slaves saved their situation for Janjira. Shivaji spent lavishly on his navy and faced the Siddi of Janjira and the English with great exploit. Shivaji's navy was put to the real test when the Siddi of Janjira and the English made common cause to defend Khanderi against the Marathas. "But the first encounter between the English and the Marathas at sea took place on 19th September 1679 and ended in a reverse for the sons of the Ocean Queen. The ship-building activity during the period 1653-1680 was conducted on an extensive scale by Shivaji. There were in all 45 different kinds of ships or boats, and the most important of them are detailed below :





“Gurabs are floating batteries or gun-boats carrying two masts and moving slowly. Gallivats are vessels constructed for swift sailing. Shinars are trading vessels than Shibars. A Tarande is large sailing vessel. The Machwas (a round-built two-masted craft from 3 to 20 tonnes) and the Shibars (a large square-sterned, flat-bottomed vessel with two masts but not deck) are described in Bombay Gazetteer XIII, Part II, 717. Sabhasad 68 speaks of Daria Sarang as a Mussalman and of Mai Nayak as a Hindu of the Bhandari caste. But a Bombay letter dated 21st November 1670 says ‘the admiral of the (maratha) fleet is one ventgee Sarungee, commonly called Durrea Sarangee’. Another Bombay letter dated 11 September 1679 speaks of ‘Mia Nayak’ a Bhandari of Rajapur. Daulat Khan was an officer distinct from the Daria Sarang.”

“Though Shivaji had the strength of mind to organise a navy and place it under a Muslim commander, who went far to the South on the Malabar Coast and fought with the help of his strong navy with the Siddi. The Europeans (Topikars) in the littoral region were struck by this navy. Their ships and cargo were plundered and the spoils brought treasury by the Maratha navy. The heavy expenses of the navy were met out of these spoils.

Shivaji also built many coastal forts which played an important role in the history of the Konkan. They were an adjunct of the navy. In time of war, they served as supply depots and places of refuge to the navy. The warships replenished their resources from the fort-depots. Every year during the rough season, the Maratha navy anchored in some good port overlooked by a fort. Thus, Shivaji's influence was established over the sea.

**Portuguese accept Shivaji's equality :**

Soon the Portuguese accepted Shivaji's equality at sea. His petty engagements with the Portuguese and the English, brought credit to the Maratha navy as daring sea-farers. Shivaji built at Rajapur three-masted vessels and employed them in salt-trade with Muscat and other places. Shivaji's Subhedar of Kalyan had built a large vessel for trading in salt with Muscat and Mocha.

Thus the freedom of the sea was ensured by Shivaji who became a king of the sea.

To achieve supremacy over the sea, Shivaji had to wage war with the Portuguese at Goa and the English in other places. The task of imposing his complete hegemony all along the West coast was fulfilled by Shivaji on reaching Basrur, the southern most place in South Kanara district. A letter from the English factory of Karwar declares : "Sevagee hath made a thorough conquest of the country hereabout. He is master of all as far as Anchola (in North Kanara district)". Another letter



from Rajapur states : “Sevagee Rajah hath now taken all belonging to the king of Vessapore in Conkon (Konkan)”. Therefore, according to Dr-Fryer “the British quietly laid down their arms in 1680 before Shivaji and sought for peace with him.”

Thus, Shivaji paid full attention to the development of the navy and acquisitioning the sovereignty at sea.

The following remarks of the Adhyapatra on this subject are worthy of special attention :

“Just as the King’s success on land depends on the strength of his cavalry so the mastery of the sea belongs to him who possesses a navy. Therefore, a navy ought to be built. Whatever naval force is created, it should be fully well-equipped with brave and efficient fighters, guns, matchlocks, ammunitions, grenades, and other material of naval use. Harbours should be well protected. Trade should be increased. Kolis and merchants should not be troubled. They should be protected. Foreign ships without permits should be subjected to inspection. Efforts should be made to see that the foreign merchants feel assured in every way and attracted to enter into commercial relations with the kingdom. Hostile ships should be brought into port without any dooge and the king should be informed about them. There is a great advantage in the protection of merchants. By assuring safety to seafaring merchants at various ports, they should be allowed freedom of intercourse in trade.”

Such was the policy of the good sea king that Shivaji Maharaj was.

The naval spirit roused by Shivaji did not die with him. The Angres rose to power & how they maintained the reputation of Maharashtra is told in the following pages.



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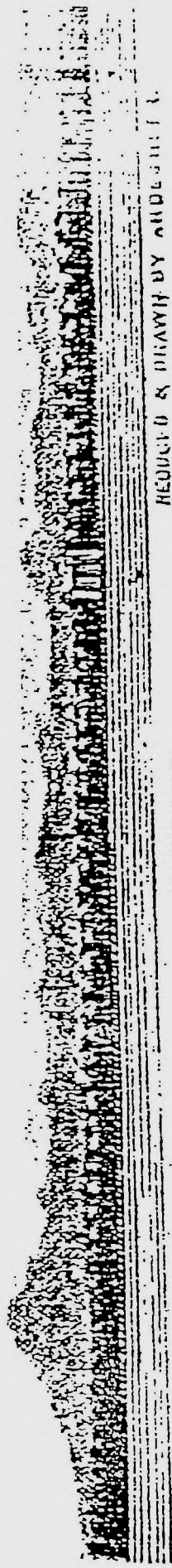
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## **CHAPTER II**

### **KANHOJI ANGRE**

The Angre's house gained a name in the history of India because of Kanhoji's maritime triumphant activities on the western coast of India after Shivaji the great. Shivaji the great, adopted method for the defence of his kingdom by means of Sea and Land Ports, the four rock naval bases forming the spinal cord of Maharashtra's independence which even the great Mughal Emperors had never thought of. At all these naval bases Shivaji established docks for the construction and repair of armed and trading vessels with fresh gun boundaries. This was a provision both for the expansion of trade and security against hostile attacks of which Kanhoji Angre and his house took full advantage for more than half century after Shivaji.

According to official accounts Kanhoji was a Maratha Kshatriya whose family name was Sankpal. The new name the Angre was derived from the village Angrewadi in the Maval region, six miles from Poona, where the Angre had long resided. It appears that Kanhoji's father Tukoji Sankpal, took service under the great Shivaji about 1658 A. D. and distinguished himself in several actions. He was rewarded with a command of 200, and posted at Suvarnadrug an important naval post which is situated at a vulnerable position hardly 20 miles south of Sidi's frontier'. Kanhoji built up his career during Shivaji's times. It seems that Kanhoji was aware



of the aims and policy of the Maratha navy under Shivaji which was well set out in *Amatya Rajniti*. 'The Navy' says *Ramchandra Amatya*<sup>2</sup>, "is one of the main pillars of the state. He who possesses a fleet rides the waves. The *ghurab* (i.e. the fighting vessels) should be of a medium size (unlike the big European ships sailing by wind and solely at its mercy). The fleet should be well equipped with guns, mortars, powder and shot. Five *ghurabs* with a *Flotilia* of fifteen *galbais* should be formed into one squadron and placed under a commander. The navy should not subsist by plunder, but should have a fixed sum for its maintenance. Ports should be developed by giving protection and affording facilities to merchants visiting with merchandise". *Ramchandra Amatya* recognised that active overseas commerce and many merchant ships laid the foundation of a great sea power. "The fleet is not to remain bottled up in a cove", continues the Minister, "but is to constantly patrol the coast and watch for enemy ships. Under no circumstances are merchant ships to be molested; they are, by every means to be induced to open trade with Maratha ports. While trading vessels from the enemy's country may be detained, their goods are to be held as sacred trust, to be released on payment of a fine. Should the fleet come across enemy war-ships, all the units are to co-operate in attacking them. An action is to be avoided if the wind favoured the enemy. Men or vessels are not to be exposed to unnecessary danger. An enemy ship is not to be boarded rashly, even if it showed signs of weakening. During monsoon the fleet is to winter in a sheltered place under the protecting walls of a castle. Strict



discipline is to be maintained in winter quarters to prevent accident or treachery, especially among the foreign crew that man the major part of the fleet. The entire navy is not to concentrate in one place for wintering but to disperse to various ports and they remain under strict watch while undergoing repairs"<sup>3</sup>. The Chitnis Bakhar mentions that Sidoji Gujar the Admiral of the fleet accompanied chhatrapati Rajaram to Jinji and Suvarnadurg was left in charge of Kanhoji Angre<sup>4</sup>. Kanhoji won a victory against the Sidis of Janjira in 1689 and following year he was appointed second in Command of the fleet by Rajaram and five years later the title of Sarkhel was bestowed on him by Tarabai<sup>5</sup>.

To start with let us take a peep into the early events of Kanhoji's life. It would be important to take a review of the naval build-up by Chatrapati Shivaji, who for the defence of his newly founded kingdom was very keen on developing a naval force. As he proceeded to conquer and bring under his sway the territory of Konkan there was a collision with sea powers, namely, the Sidis, the Portuguese, the English and the Dutch. After the death of Shivaji, the Coast of Konkan was defended by the Angres<sup>6</sup>.

During Sambluji's period, the Konkan region became the centre of the activities of the Marathas. Many wars between the Marathas and the Sidis, lately made Chatrapati Sambhaji so that he may differ his allegiance to Emperor Aurangzeb. The attack on Underi island on 1st August, 1681 by Marathas was a disastrous failure and so also the attempts of the Marathas to capture Janjira from the Sidi.



Author of "Kulabkar Angre Sarkhel" has described how the Sidi of Janjira had laid siege to the fort of Suvarnadurg for quite sometime. The Killedar the army officer in charge of Suvarnadurg Mohite who had no option but to succumb to the pressure mounted by the Sidi, proposed surrendering the place<sup>2</sup>. After informing the authorities about the Killedar's pusillanimous attitude, Kanhoji put him into prison. Kanhoji took charge as commander and attacked the besiegers fiercely but unfortunately he fell into the enemy hands and was taken as a prisoner. Extricating himself from the confinement, Kanhoji managed to reach the walls of the fortress and beat off the Sidi attack<sup>3</sup>.

The execution of Chhatrapati Sambhaji was a great blow to Maratha power. The Mughals were powerful in North Konkan. On 19th October, 1689, Mughals were occupied in South ports of Cheul and Rajapur. So in November, 1689, the Maratha Navy was only in possession of the fort Kolaba and some ships under the command of Kanhoji Angre.

In these critical circumstances, Kanhoji was able to attain the heights of great leadership and not only the Maratha navy survived but the enemies were terror stricken.

In 1689 Kanhoji and Sidhoji Gujar engaged themselves in a fight with the Mughal Ammaldar, Shaikh Mahmud. Consequent upon Kanhoji's victory over Sidi of Janjira and Sidi's by him the same year at Sagargad and Rajkot, the Sidi was forced to accept the treaty terms, under which Sidi agreed to divide revenues of the territories

of Rajkot, Sagargad, Underi and Parhur among the two viz. Sidhoji Gujar and Kanhoji Angre<sup>9</sup>. Consequently, a dispute ensued between Admiral Sidhoji Gujar and Kanhoji Angre, and Kanhoji imprisoned Sidhoji Gujar. When Sidhoji died in prison (1689), Kanhoji succeeded him as the Admiral<sup>10</sup>.

When Kanhoji succeeded as Chief Commander of the Maratha navy, the first task before him was to protect the Maratha traders from the deprivation of the Sidi and the second was to obtain the stamp of acknowledgement about the Maratha sovereignty of the sea. It was however no easy task and Kanhoji had to contend against no less than five rivals, the Sidis of Janjira, the Savants of Wadi, the English of Bombay, the Dutch of Vengurla and last but not the least the Portuguese of Goa.

Kanhoji clashed with the Sidi and the Mughal early in his career as Chief Commander of the fleet. The resources at the hands of Kanhoji Angre were so inadequate that when he was called upon to command the Maratha fleet, it was not well equipped.

The Sidi achieved unexpected success in this campaign against Marathas in the year 1699. The Sidi flummoxed the Marathas, over running Rajapuri and Konkan and was rewarded by Emperor Aurangzeb with the plum prize of Raigad<sup>11</sup>.

In the year some reverses at sea led the Sidis and the Portuguese to join hands with the Mughals against Kanhoji in the year 1699<sup>12</sup>. Kanhoji responded with a crushing defeat of combined

forces of the Sidis, the Mughals and the Portuguese and captured Sagargad and the country around and forced his enemy to come to an agreement. Accordingly, the revenue of Cheul would be divided between the Mughals the Angres and the revenue of small village Parhur at Alibaug would go to Sidis.

There were several skirmishes between the Sidi and the Angre. The Sidi laid siege to Kanhoji's castle. Kanhoji, who was away with his gallivats launched a counter attack and destroyed that in possession of the Sidi. An English Record dated 2nd April, 1701 says that Sidi had suffered heavily in the battle with the Marathas and had called a surgeon from Bombay to dress his wounded men<sup>13</sup>.

Kanhoji was acknowledged as a power in west coast. In 1697 Khem Sawant the nephew of Lakham Sawant invaded the fort of Kudal and drove Raje Narayan Prabhu Desai, the Ruler of the Kudal Ranche Mahal and established himself in the Kudal region.

Raje Narayan Prabhu Desai obviously requested for aid and took shelter with Kanhoji Angre. It was decided that after driving away Khem Sawant, Kanhoji Angre was to enjoy the third part of the revenue as third brother of the family<sup>14</sup>. Assistance was given by Kanhoji Angre to Narayan Prabhu Desai. Meanwhile, Kanhoji, being preoccupied with other campaigns elsewhere could not come to his rescue. Khem Dhond Sawant, the Desais had sought refuge. In the battle that ensued between the two armies, Desai was routed and his son was slain in the battle<sup>15</sup>.

In order to secure sovereignty for the Marathas power and with the intention that the Maratha rule acknowledged it as a maritime nation of the West coast, Kanhoji had to struggle hard as the Admiral of the Maratha fleet. By exercising the sovereignty of the sea like Shivaji, and compelling alien traders purchase Kanhoji's cartazes brought Kanhoji into conflict with the European nations. Particularly the Portuguese, the English and the Dutch they found their commercial interest in danger. European power's main industries were established in the Mughal territories. Their recognition of the Maratha claims would be tantamount to antagonising the Mughal Emperor. Secondly, these powers were claiming superiority over the Marathas in the Indian ocean in all respects. They were prepared to accept Kanhoji's claim which meant that struggle and extra expeditions would be followed. Kanhoji had to prove his ability and compel European powers to admit his claims.

Kanhoji shifted his head quarters from Suvarnadurga to Kolaba. The country surrounding Kolaba and Khanderi island was under his command<sup>16</sup>.

The first clash between Kanhoji and the English arose in December, 1698 near Danda Rajapuri, as the Sevagees of Padmadurg castle, under the jurisdiction of Kanhoji, captured some salt-vessels belonging to the English<sup>17</sup>.

The English decided to stop all the Salt-boats bound for the Angre's territory, till they were promised by the various Subhedars that they would not be likewise harassed in future. This had the

desired effect.

In the consultation at Bombay castle, dated 6th February 1699, we come across the following remarks, "The Subhedar Kanhoji Angre having wrote to the Deputy Governor for leave of salt boats to come to his country, promising that he would get back two men, who were imprisoned by the Valcact, and that for the future none of our inhabitants should be abused, we permitted the salt vessels to Goa."<sup>18</sup>

The amicable approach between Kanhoji Angre and the English was short-lived. As his resources increased, Kanhoji Angre began challenging foreign merchant men that ventured on the Sea without his passes. In 1702, a small trading vessel from Calicut with six Englishmen fell into his hands and was carried into one of his harbours. To a demand for its release, he sent a word "that he would give the English cause to remember the name of Kanhoji Angre"<sup>19</sup>.

In September 1703, English retaliated by withholding a Ghurab belonging to one of Kanhoji's men. On 13 September, 1703, the Bombay Council resolved the embargo and detained a gurab, which did not possess a pass, coming from Aden, belonging to Kanhoji's territories, as Kanhoji had offended them many a time and further the advice of the Surat council<sup>20</sup>.

The English found themselves in an awkward situation. They deputed Mr. Reynolds to negotiate with Kanhoji Angre. He was



instructed to tell Kanhoji Angre that he could not be permitted scarching, molesting or seizing vessels bringing permissions from the English and that it would be considered as a breach of friendship treaty between them<sup>21</sup>.

Kanhoji Angre had no patience to entertain the Company's warning. He boldly told Mr. Reynolds that the English had "never kept their word to him, although he had been of services to them." Kanhoji conveyed his message as follows :

"The Marathas had made peace with the Portuguese and every one of their ports was free to them. It is well known that the Marathas had carried on war with the Moghul for forty years, lived now by their sword and seized what boats and other vessels belonging either to the Moghuls, vessels from any of his forts of Mallabar excepting such as had Kanhoji Angre's passports: the English being at liberty of acting as they please."<sup>22</sup>.

A letter dated 1st March 1706-07 sent from Surat to the company, states that the English sustained losses at the hands of Kanhoji Angre.

There was an exchange of letters between the East India Company and Kanhoji Angre in 1706. In one letter, written by Kanhoji he had rejected all responsibility for some of the losses ascribed to him and had offered to restore the ship he had actually seized; "provided articles of friendship are agreed upon with Rani Tarabai."<sup>23</sup>.



In February 1707, Khanhoji's ships attacked and sank the company's frigate "Bombay", and in 1710, his ships had 9, two day long gun battles with the company's ship "Godolphine" within sight of Bombay. In 1711, the company were complaining to the Directors that Kanhoji Angre could take any ship except the largest European ships, along the coast from Surat to Dabhol.

The English suffered a lot at the hands of Kanhoji Angre. In 1712, Kanhoji had captured the Governor of Bombay's armed Yacht along with another English vessel the 'Anne of Carwar', and attacked the "Somers" and "Grantham". Marathas compelled him to come to terms with the English. A treaty 24 with the English involved some difficulty for Kanhoji Angre but peace with Shahu Maharaj was not so simple an affair.

Kanhoji's compelling alien traders to purchase his cartazes which at once brought him into conflict with the Portuguese. It is not known when Kanhoji first challenged the Portuguese supremacy of the seas.

But there were some factors responsible for the establishment of friendly relations between the Portuguese and Kanhoji Angre. Kanhoji was in search of a market to sell his prizes. By 1703, Kanhoji had attained so much importance that Oaeramo de Mello de Castro, Viceroy of Goa, addressed a friendly letter to him and also sent to him some presents and permitted the merchant of Cheul to purchase a vessel, which Kanhoji had probably captured as a

prize and was anxious to dispose off Portuguese records mention that the Mughals, were slothful about the Angre's threat, that the Portuguese Government deputed the Jesuit Father Jose de Sliva, as an envoy to warn the Mughal Emperor against allowing the power of the Sidi to grow unchecked. The Sidi and the Angres should be treated in the same level and their activities in the Konkan must be observed closely, opined the Portuguese<sup>25</sup>.

But the request of the Portuguese was completely ignored by the Mughal Emperor. The Portuguese, were aware of Kanhoji's ability on the West coast they immediately accepted the proposals for peace from the Marathas.

In 1700, the Sidi had blockaded Kanhoji's head quarter Kolaba. So, Kanhoji was busy fighting a war with the Sidi of Janjira. Kanhoji who always faced one rival at a time, kept aside his differences with the Portuguese and opted for peace<sup>26</sup>.

The treaty between the Portuguese and the Marathas was kept a secret but somehow the Sidis of Janjira came to know about it and the information was conveyed to the English at Bombay<sup>27</sup>.

The Portuguese Government denied the report and explained the Mughal Emperor that there had been no treaty terms with the Marathas. But if at all any such development had taken place, it must have taken place at the instance of the General in charge of northern region and who deserves punishment for such unilateral action, the Portuguese added. But the treaty was confirmed and kept confidential from both the sides.

Kanhoji Angre maintained truce with the Portuguese for the ensuing three years. During this period, Kanhoji established his sovereignty on the sea and captured all vessels which did not carry his cartazes, except those of the Portuguese<sup>28</sup>.

The treaty of 1703; which had patched up difference between Kanhoji and the Portuguese earlier; was thrown to the winds by both the sides. Kanhoji Angre had begun an unrelenting campaign against the Portuguese shipping.

According to Dr. B.K. Apte, the peace between Kanhoji and Portuguese lasted till 1708. When the Mughals retreated and Kanhoji; without any regard for friendship treaties; started seizing the Portuguese ships<sup>29</sup>.

In 1710, Kanhoji sent a messenger to formulate peace treaty terms with the Portuguese. He did not want the Portuguese to distract his attention. But, the Victory ignored his friendly advances and captain Anntonio Cardin harassed Kanhoji's villagers in the neighbourhood of Cheul<sup>30</sup>.

Kanhoji had captured a Pal belonging to a retiring Governor of Cheul; together with the Governor himself and all his possessions acquired during a life-time of profitable service in the East. After some days, he fought in action against two of Portuguese gunboats of which he sank one and captured the other.

In 1712, Kanhoji attacked the Portuguese armada of merchant ships, escorted by two powerful warships carrying 34 guns, one

was disabled and the other forced to flee. Most of the merchant fleet fell in Kanhoji's hands.

The loss of the merchant convoy was something of a calamity to the Portuguese, for the yearly armada was the most important trading enterprise of the merchants of Goa and carried many private fortune with it.

The increasing power of Kanhoji Angre made the Portuguese apprehensive about their naval bases. It was but natural that the Portuguese would take some action to meet the danger posed by Kanhoji. The Portuguese suggested the English that a joint expedition should be launched against the common enemy<sup>11</sup>. The English also had suffered a lot at the hands of Kanhoji Angre.

After the death (20th February, 1707) of Aurengzeb; Prince Shahu was released by the Mughals, the Maratha's mobility was divided between the parties of Tarabai and Shahu. Kanhoji's allegiance to Tarabai however remained unaffected Kanhoji had waged a victorious war against Shahu on behalf of Tarabai and extended his domain on the mainland by reducing the strong forts of Lohagad, Tunga and Tikona. Shahu's Peshwa Prime Minister Bahiropanth Pingale; who was sent to punish Kanhoji, was made captive by Kanhoji. But acknowledging Maharaja supremacy, Kanhoji decided to include a peace treaty with Shahu Maharaja and the English so that such a treaty may enable him to defend his territories against the Sidi and the Portuguese.

Aware of the prowess of Kanhoji Angre, the English hesitated to accept the proposal put forward by the Portuguese against Kanhoji, the Maratha Admiral. Kanhoji was also against an Anglo-Portuguese alliance and to avoid clash with Shahu Maharaja, he decided to have a treaty with the English.

Kanhoji sent a messenger to Bombay in February 1713, to the English with proposals of peace, offering to free the captured vessels; if a high-ranking Englishman was sent to Kolaba to take the possession of the vessels.

The Governor and Council proposed the following terms<sup>22</sup> :

- (1) 'That he delivers up all that he has taken that belonged to the company and our people'.
- (2) 'That upon no pretence whatever; he meddle with any English ships belonging to the merchants who live under the protection of the English at Madras, Bengal or any other factories or colonies belonging to the English what so ever'.
- (3) 'That whatever ships or vessels belong to any nation whatsoever that are coming into our harbour and in sight thereof (To) Khanderi and at their going out the same rule is to be observed'.
- (4) 'That he grant out merchant the free liberty of his ports they paying usual customs being conformable to the rules thereof. If any vessels belonging to Sevagee Rana (Raza) or Sow Razah shall take or molest any vessels belonging to Bombay they have his convey which he is obliged to give he shall be answerable for the damage.



(5) We on our part promise that we will permit no ships or vessels whatever to wear, English colours, but what belong to the subjects of the English nation, which shall be inserted in all their ships'.

(6) We grant him free liberty of one port of Bombay to buy sell and merchandise by paying the usual custom and observing the rules of our port. Which if he complies with that wee send the Blemhein Ann and Manchua to fetch the Company's effects which he has taken and our people".

The terms of the treaty were accepted by Kanhoji Angre, as they imposed little or no sacrifice on him. Kanhoji agreed to the terms of the treaty because there was more trouble for Shahu Maharaja.

The immediate result of this treaty was no fear from the English joining the Portuguese and in acknowledging Shahu's supremacy, Kanhoji was free to deal with the Sidi and the Portuguese.

### **KANHOJI ANGRE AND MAHARAJA SHAHU**

After the capture of Raigad in 1689, the Mughal army penetrated into the Konkan from the south and occupied the ports of Cheul and Rajapur. The Maratha navy was at that time, in the view of fort of Kolaba and some ships under the command of Kanhoji Angre. Kanhoji Angre rose to the occasion at this time and showed his valour.



The Sidis had laid siege to the fort of Suvarnadurg for quite long time. Kanhoji Angre was in the fort with Killedar Achaloji Mohite. Both bravely tried to repulse the besiegers. In one of the assaults, Kanhoji fell into the hands of the Sidi and was made a captive. After his release Kanhoji managed to reach the walls of the fort and beat off the Sidi's attack. After this incident (1689), Kanhoji was promoted to the post of second-in-command of the Maratha fleet and after five years of meritorious service the title of "Sarkhel" at Vijaydurg was bestowed on him by Tarabai<sup>23</sup>. It is possible that Kanhoji was bound by an oath, on boiled rice and milk, to be true to her.

Shahu was enthroned on 12th January 1708 at Satara. As it was with almost all the nobles of the day, Kanhoji Angre too was in two minds as to whom he should offer his allegiance.

In February 1708, Tarabai invited the Sawant of Wadi and Kanhoji Angre, to assist her when Maharaja Shahu laid siege at Rangna. But the Sawant of Wadi; made common cause with Shahu Maharaja and Kanhoji Angre; did not take any active part in this civil war. Kanhoji neglected her invitation and did not turn-up there.

It appears that Kanhoji and Shahu had cordial relations, Maharaja Shahu appointed Bahiropani Peshwa to check the activities of Kanhoji Angre. There were rumours then that after occupying Kalyan and the forts of Rajmachi, Tunge, Tikona and Ghanagad, Kanhoji was to launch an attack on Satara and Poona. The



province of Kalyan was controlled by the Peshwa, Bahiropant Pingale was selected to control Kanhoji's activities.

Bahiropant made Lohgad as his base of operations. But before he could start his project, Kanhoji made a surprise attack on Lohgad, and captured it and Pingale. Kanhoji kept Pingale and Chitnis in confinement in the fort of Kolaba<sup>14</sup>.

Maharaja Shahu was greatly apprehensive about the strength of Kanhoji Angre, who had imprisoned his Peshwa. Balaji Vishwanath was busy subduing Krishnarao Khatavkar. Shahu Maharaja offered the Peshwaship to Parashurampant who did not accept the command of the fleet against Kanhoji.

Balaji Vishwanath was quite willing to execute Shahu's command provided he was sent as the accredited Peshwa and given power to decide issues of war and peace. Shahu agreed to confer upon Balaji Vishwanath, the office of the Peshwa and the investiture ceremony was held on 17th November, 1713.

Kanhoji Angre and Balaji Vishwanath had long been known to each other as friendly neighbours inhabiting the same coastal region. Through common friends and secret agents, Balaji Vishwanath appealed to Kanhoji's conscience that by acting jointly under Maharaja Shahu's suzerainty they could promote their personal interests. He also brought home the fact to Kanhoji's mind that he was surrounded by enemies like the English, the Portuguese and the Sidis, against whom it was impossible for him to hold out long

single-handed unless he had the full support of the central government. This forceful appeal had its effect on Kanhoji at once. Kanhoji agreed to receive Balaji Vishwanath with the respect due to a Peshwa. Early in January 1714, both of them met at Valvan, a suburb of Lonavala. After long discussions they settled the terms of peace between Maharaja Shahu and Kanhoji. The two chiefs proceeded together to Kolaba where the treaty was ratified on 8th February. In the meantime, the treaty demarcated the Angrian and Maharaja Shahu's possessions and provided for mutual co-operation and common defence. The treaty of 1714 reconciled Kanhoji and Shahu. After the signing of this treaty Kanhoji was allowed to have a free hand in the Konkan, including the territory under the Sidis. So long as Kanhoji accepted the nominal overlordship of Shahu he was the de-facto ruler of this region and the treaty recognised him as such, Shahu was happy that Kanhoji and the Sidis were thorns in the side of the Maratha government and now that one was set against the other, they would exhaust their strength in mutual warfare leaving Shahu to deal with other pressing matters.

This treaty had its effect on the policy of the Sidis of Janjira and the English at Bombay. Both were enemies of Kanhoji and all along they had shown determined opposition to him. The Sidis readily concluded a peace with Kanhoji on 30th January, 1715, and engagement which was not disturbed for seventeen years.

As a result of the treaty of Kolaba, Kanhoji Angre secured the control of ten maritime and sixteen land forts. His annual income

from the territory was placed at rupees thirty four lakhs. He was confirmed as the "Sarkhel" and "Vazarat-Ma-aab" in hereditary perpetuity. As the Admiral of the Maharaja Shahu, Kanhoji could use his own seal which read "By the pleasure of King Shahu, the seal of Kanhoji Sarkhel, the son of Tukoji is always victorious"<sup>37</sup>.

After this the quarrel between Sidi and Kanhoji Angre was settled. It proved beneficial to Shahu Maharaja also. The Sidi's power was nullified and prestige also declined vis-a-vis the Marathas. Till 1725, the Sidi dared not raise his head against the Marathas. Yet the Sidi continued to harass the Hindus of the Konkan<sup>38</sup>.

### **THE KHANDERI EXPEDITION**

For full eleven years, the Sidi did not disturb the peaceful relations with the Marathas. So, Kanhoji, now turned his attention towards the English and the Portuguese.

Governor Boon; approved to evince keen interest in and capacity of strengthening his fighting fleet, as soon as he took the charge of Bombay; on the 26th December, 1715.

The treaty which was signed between the English and Kanhoji in 1713 did not last long. The issue of contention between the two was not capturing the vessels but the controversy over who should control the western coast.

In 1715, Kanhoji complained to Governor Boone "of ill usage in return for the good services he had done".

Kanhoji's capture of three ships in succession and his forcible appropriation of some timber from the company's vessels, led to the deterioration of amicable relations between the two.

The English freighted their ships with goods belonging to the others and thus avoided the payment of the passes of Kanhoji Angre. This caused a great loss to Kanhoji Angre, who then decided to press his demands by capturing such ships.

Kanhoji captured the English ship "Success" for the above cited reason. The English insisted that the ship belonged to their middleman and hence it was an English ship. Kanhoji did not accept the English claims. Since the English did not wish to enter into a controversy with Kanhoji Angre, they advised their agent to negotiate secretly. It was ultimately decided that Kanhoji should restore the ship in exchange of some gifts<sup>38</sup>.

But this matter was not yet settled and Kanhoji again captured another English ship "Robert". The Bombay council did not like the action of Kanhoji Angre. The English felt insulted. But the English were not in a position to adopt a policy of confrontation with Kanhoji and their president decided that this type of activity in future must be prevented and just warned Kanhoji through a letter.

Yet, Kanhoji refused to restore the ship "Robert" or to release the Englishmen, on pretext of the ship belonging to moors<sup>39</sup>. The English reluctant to indulge in reprisal made an attempt to mediate through Rama Kamath to get the Europeans released; imprisoned by Kanhoji Angre.



Kanhoji again seized another British ship, the "Otlay". So, on 5th April, 1716. It was decided by the council "to treat him in the same way" and advised the Governor to order private instructions to the English frigates to capture and destroy Kanhoji's ghurabs; should they fall in their way. But hostilities did not actually start. Open struggles were proceeded by the confinement at Mahim. A Shibar belonging to Angre's port Alibag, alerted Governor Boon. Kanhoji wrote him a letter complainig, "Our friendship is now over, and from this day what God gives I shall take".

The situation continued to worsen. Three ships were captured by Kanhoji Angre about which there was a controversy regarding their ownership. Though the ships did not belong to the English the cargo belonged to the English Captain Cornwall, was negotiating with Kanhoji on behalf of the English. So Kanhoji wrote a letter to the Captain that ships belonging to Bombay, Bengal or Madras shall not be molested by him expect that he will make prize of them".

At last on 17th June, 1718, war was declared against Kanhoji by the English<sup>41</sup>. However hostilities had already commenced six weeks earlier. The English led expeditions against Khanderi, Kolaba and Gheria but without success. There was an attempt to conclude a treaty with the Portuguese against Kanhoji Angre in October, 1718 by the English. But it did not yield any meaningful results<sup>42</sup>.

Governor Boone; decided to reduce the strength of Kanhoji Angre and laid siege to Vijaydurga, the stronghold of Kanhoji. This



has been mentioned by Clement Doening who participated in this expedition. But the date given by him is wrong<sup>43</sup>.

During rainy season, Kanhoji's fleet lay sheltering in the port. So, the attack on Vijaydurga was aimed at recapturing the English gullivats, the "Success" the "Robert" and the "Otter" and destroying a major part of Kanhoji's fleet. Governor Boon and Major Vane, the Company's chief Engineer reviewed the fleet before it sailed for expedition. According to Downing, nearly 2,500 men took part in this expedition. The ships from England which had arrived with merchandise also joined the expedition<sup>44</sup>.

After a twelve-hour journey the Squadron arrived at Ciheria. As the walls of the fort were very high the idea of taking the fort by storming it had to be abandoned. Even, the plan of setting fire to the Maratha fleet had to be dropped, because the Marathas had laid a great part of their fleet inside the creek and had got a strong boom across the creek. Though the bombardment of Khanderi followed owing to the distance between the fleet and the stronghold it proved absolutely futile. The English ships dared not come within the range of the enemy's guns with the result that the strong hold remained unaffected by the English fire<sup>45</sup>.

Ultimately, the English decided to get an access to the vessels by effecting a landing and setting them on fire. A desultory bombardment was continued for some days some shots also were fired against Kolaba. But Khanderi was well provided with ammunition, and could return two shots for every one fired by the

Bombay squadron. Thus, the English expedition failed. The fleet was back in Bombay on 18th June 1719. "to repair the English frigates and to take care of their wounded men, of whom they had a considerable number"<sup>46</sup>.

The failure of this expedition as per Boon's opinion was due to his own rashness. Actually, the failure was due to a badly planned attack carried out half-heartedly by indisciplined men under one or two leaders. It was only to pacify the contemporary feelings that Rama Kamath was accused of treachery and made a scape-goat. It was very difficult for Boon to defeat Kanhoji without aid from England. That was the lesson learnt by Boone after the failure of the attack on Khanderi<sup>47</sup>. But at the same time, Governor Boone was not a man to get disheartened by a single failure. Meanwhile he planned a future campaign against Kanhoji and decided to weaken Kanhoji's power. The island of Khanderi at short distance from Bombay harbour, was selected as the place to be stormed and throughout the rainy season the preparations were made<sup>48</sup>.

Khanderi has been mentioned as the island of Cheul. Measuring "a fiction shot long and arquebes shot broad. The Portuguese had taken a note of it 1738. It had two high hills. The north-east side of the island was protected from the wind, affording good landing for ships. The island had good supply of firewood and fresh water. Chhatrapati Shivaji constructed breastwork at the landing place when he occupied the island. Khanderi assumed importance when Bombay became an important centre of activity





under the East India company. The Admirals of Chhatrapati Shivaji successfully maintained the island against the combined attack of the English and the Sidi. Kanhoji Angre had lately got the possession of the island by his settlement with Shahu Maharaja through the Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath. Shahu Maharaja handed over Khanderi to Kanhoji Angre in 1713 A.D. The island commanded the Bombay harbour as well as the Nagothna river which sheltered Kanhoji's fleet. Thus, his ships could enter or leave Bombay harbour without being sighted by the Marathas who had their naval base at Khanderi.

Governor Boone although disgusted, was not dismayed and had a floating castle made, which was named "Phram". It had a low draught, was very stoutly built and carried twelve "48 pounders". It was designed with shot proof sides and was expected to play a vital role in the following expedition. On 1st November, 1718, Boone hoisted the English flag on board the "Addison"<sup>49</sup>.

Governor Boone took the charge of the expedition in person on "Addison". On 2nd November, 1718, the Addison laid anchor at 2 in the afternoon.

On 3rd November the bombardment of the island started early in the morning and continued upto late in the evening.

Two of the Angre's Ghurabs were sighted by the English fleet. Success and the vindictive attitude motivated them to follow them



only to realise that the Maratha gallivats were followed at some distance by Kanhoji 's fourteen other gallivats. The English ships set back themselves from the chase; as Kanhoji's gallivats were outnumbering them<sup>50</sup>.

Governor Boone now decided to attack Khanderi from two sides.

On 4th November the English continuously kept firing at the fort of Khanderi. As there was no reaction from the enemy, the English concluded that the ammunition situation in the fort was very critical.

On the 5th November the gallivats had moved to the Northwest of the island to support the landing to be made by the company's sepoy's; refused to land. The log of Addison mentioned that in the assault 18 were killed and 50 wounded<sup>51</sup>.

On 6th November, Morrice another 'East India' man joined the English fleet. As a result of the previous day's casualties, the number of the all English party had dwindled down to about 2000 which was considered too small force for another attempt for storming the fort. Although there were nearly 2,000 English sailors participating in the expedition, their duties were confined to the shipshape operations which were quite outside the scope of their normal duties. Governor Boone then called for volunteers from his sailors. He offered a reward for each volunteer and also promised generous compensations in case of injury. The response to Boone's appeal, however was pitiful.

A fresh attack on the fort of Khanderi was planned on the following day i.e. on 7th November 1718. As sepoy refused to join, it was carried out by only a single party, composed of the grenadiers and the marines, and a few 'Volunteer' sailors. The assaulting party made a brave and determined bid to reach the gates of the fort. By the afternoon, the expedition had spent itself, although the ships continued a desultory bombardment on the island from a safe distance<sup>52</sup>.

On 8th November in the morning a council of war was held and Governor Boone and his advisers agreed to go down to Kolaba with the ghurabs and gallivats leaving only the 'Defiance' and four gallivats between the island and the main.

Governor Boone's squadron continued shelling aimlessly; for a few more days; the coast in a leisurely manner.

It is said that on the 11th an offer of truce was received from Kanhoji Angre which was refused peremptorily<sup>53</sup>.

Governor Boone, on 'Addison' returned to Bombay on 14th November 1718 and the whole squadron was back in Bombay on the 24th, after exhausting all their ammunition. The setback of the English fleet seems to have been hastened by the situation of Kanhoji's fleet from Vijaydurga, which held Bombay at its mercy for quite considerable time.

Thus, the English expedition against Kanhoji Angre ended in a sheer fiasco<sup>54</sup>.



The failure of this expedition according to Clement Downing, was the treachery of a Portuguese officer Manuel De Castro. Governor Boone had given the command of the smaller ships to Castro who allowed fire of Angre's gallivats with ammunition and provisions to ship. On his way back to Bombáy, Castro was put in irons and shipped off to St. Helens<sup>55</sup>.

The Bombay authorities accused Rama Kamath, a Hindu inhabitant of Bombay. He was accused of carrying on treasonable correspondence with Kanhoji Angre and was condemned without any evidence. He was sentenced to a life imprisonment while his property was confiscated. The whole episode, since it is related to Kanhoji Angre and therefore is reviewed here in short.

Rama Kamath who was a well-known personality of the time; belonged to the contemporary Bombay elite hailed from a rich, influential and respected family. He was also the highest Indian military Commander under the company<sup>56</sup>.

When Kanhoji captured the English ships, the English declared war against him on 17th June, 1718. Before the declaration of war the English negotiated with Kanhoji Angre. Captain Henry Cornwall returned from Kolaba with Angre's replies, so the Governor instructed his Council to seek the mediation of a prominent Bombay merchant, Rama Kamath. In consultation dated 6th February 1717-18, Rama Kamath was appointed to negotiate with Kanhoji for the release of the European prisoners.



Governor Boone took a whole year to prepare chargesheet against Rama Kamath. The two letters "Written on behalf of Rama Kamath" and bearing his personal 'Seal' sent to Angre were evidence to prove it.

The most important exhibit, the letter said to have been sent to Kanhoji Angre warning him about the Khanderi expedition shows Rama Kamath's alliance with Kanhoji Angre.

The first letter reads; "To the populent and magnificent as the Sun, valorous and victorious, always courageous, the liberal prudent and pillar of fortitude, the essence of understanding the protector of Brabmins, defender of the faith, prosperous in all things, honoured of kings, above all Councillors, Senor Kanhoji Angre Sarqueel. Ramajee Camatee, your servant writes with all the veneration and readiness for your service, and with your favour I remain as always.

"Our general here had resolved in Council to attack and take the Fort of Pondry (Khanderi) and this it is agreed to environ the said Fort on the 17th October, and the Armada powder and balls, and all other necessaries for war are ready. I therefore write your Honour that you may have the said Fort well furnished. As for the Side of the Rajaporee (the Siddy) I have spoken to and agreed with Allee Naiq Loucandee that they of Rajaporee shall not help either party. I have given this notice I do not write more, only beg that you will retain me in your favour.

"Dated the 12th of October 1718".



This letter was not in the handwriting of Rama Kamath but bore his personal seal.

The second letter runs. "This is to let your honour know that the Portuguese of Bessein have wrote to our Chief, which letter is concerning you, and therefore Dalba Bhandari has sent it to you, by which you will understand everything. Dalba Bhandari and myself are with one mind, the least of all your servants, and we assure you on our part we shall be waiting in your service. We futher advise you that our Chief is always both day and night at Parel and he has no power in his company only his own chamber servents; and for this reason we write you that by night you may send six or seven gallivats who, lending will gain a victory without doubt. upon the whole your honour is a prudent man when you have read this letter, we desire you would keep it and not put it in the office, neither the others at present. I do not write more, always hoping for your protection.

Dated the 22nd of Suffar.

The trial of Rama Kamath was a farce and on 20th April, 1720, he was pronounced guilty of high crimes and misdemeanours as by trial and ordered to be confined to prison for the rest of his life and his estates were forfeited by the company<sup>57</sup>.

Rama Kamath died in 1728, in Bombay jail.

Many years later, it was found that the letters were forged letters., Governor Boone was made responsible for his high handedness in the trial against Rama Kamath<sup>58</sup>.

S.M. Edwardes, writes, "We can never forgive Mr. Boone," for the torture (of witness, our) regret is heightened by the knowledge now vouchsafed to us that Rama Kamathi was guiltless, that the incriminating letters were the merest forgeries"<sup>60</sup>.

The trial of Rama Kamath has taken this episode of history somewhat ahead of the sequence of events.

Everybody was fed up with governor Boone. During the trial at Rama Kamath Mr. Parker a councillor; had shown a streak of honesty by protesting against the manner in which the trial was being conducted.

The Portuguese, in all their efforts, could not withstand the power of Kanhoji Angre. The Portuguese wanted to join hands with the English but were not successful in their aim. As the Governor Boone of the English was not in a position to fight and also there was mutual competition between the two powers, which prohibited them from doing the same. At the same time Kanhoji Angre applied for help from Shahu Maharaja in the relation with the English for negotiations for peace. When Kanhoji's side was safe, because the Portuguese were reluctant to join the English and the English were too adamant to make adjustment with Kanhoji. The latter therefore gave up the negotiations. The English and the Portuguese were using their power with utmost vigour against Kanhoji Angre.

### **KANHOJI AND THE PORTUGUESE**

From the year 1713 onwards the Portuguese were isolated from the English and the Sidis of Janjira. Kanhoji Angre signed a peace treaty with the English in February 1713 and with the Sidis in November 1714. It was not possible for the Portuguese to face all alone the mighty power of Kanhoji Angre. Confronted with the rude shock of English disinclination to extend them a helping hand the Portuguese decided to concentrate on self reliance in taking on the mighty Kanhoji Angre. The Portuguese Viceroy Caesar De Mello, called for more military help from the king of Portugal<sup>61</sup>. The Viceroy forcefully convoyed the merchant fleet of this year with three frigates, four pallas, one atacho and two machuvas. The Portuguese Viceroy wanted their merchant ships to be faster and lighter like Kanhoji's vessels. But Kanhoji did not fail to the assault of the straggler with four palls and six gallivats. They came into conflict for two days and two nights. Without gaining anything Kanhoji's ships came back with more losses. While Portuguese losses were only three ratings.

However by this period Kanhoji had established his supremacy on the sea to such an extent that even the General of the North, Louis de Mello, considered it necessary to Purchase Kanhoji's cartazes for the safe arrival of his brother Lopes de Mello with his vessels. Louis de Mello, the Portuguese General of the North, attacked the territories of Kanhoji Angre but had to beat a disgraceful retreat.

Battles between Kanhoji Angre and the Portuguese continued in 1713-1714. In March 1713, the Portuguese overcame Kanhoji Angre. The Portuguese Viceroy had dispatched a frigate to Cheul with reinforcements, to put a stop to Angre's incursions. As soon as the Portuguese fleet anchored in the port of Cheul, Kanhoji Angre lost no time in attacking the frigate with five pals and twelve galleys. The fight continued from morning till afternoon. In the end, Kanhoji's ships retired hopelessly after suffering heavy losses.

Again in the following month, Kanhoji Angre's ships attacked a fully armed Portuguese warship having 34 guns which had just landed a Portuguese military force at Cheul but Kanhoji's fleet returned to Kolaba without victory<sup>62</sup>. ▼

As a result of these two quick successes, the Portuguese Viceroy felt that it was possible; for them to defeat Kanhoji Angre without the assistance of the English. So, he sent a force of six frigates with their accompanying gallivats under the command of Antonio Cardim Froes, to Kolaba, and appealed to the Sidi of Janjira to give him all possible aid. "Operation Monsoon", the drill of dragging all ships on dry land to save them from the fury of the elements was Kanhoji's reply to the Portuguese assault against Kolaba. Kanhoji pulled up his ships a shore out of the range of the Portuguese guns. The Portuguese Viceroy did succeed in convincing the Sidi to assist him with his forces and the Sidi did indeed dispatch his fleet to Kolaba. At this time the Portuguese Viceroy received the news of the arrival of the Arab fleet at Surat.



So, three months later the Portuguese were compelled to beat a retreat, because the arrival of any Arab ships was always considered as a sign of danger.

Thus once again the rivalry between the Sidi and Kanhoji Angre started simmering. The treaty which was signed four years earlier between the two was violated but Kanhoji Angre ignored the Sidi altogether.

The treaty between Shahu Maharaja and Kanhoji Angre which concluded in 1713<sup>62</sup>, greatly disturbed the Sidis as it transferred a number of places belonging to the former to Kanhoji's jurisdictions.

Obviously the development had its repercussions and the Sidi readily concluded a peace treaty with Angre on 30th January 1715<sup>63</sup>, an accord which was not disturbed for next 17 years.

The English Governor Boone; rejected the proposal of the Portuguese regarding alliance against Kanhoji initially, when he became the new Governor of Bombay. The war between the English and Kanhoji was declared in June 1718<sup>64</sup>. Governor Boone invaded the island of Khanderi in November 1718 without success<sup>65</sup>. Then only, Boone opened the negotiations for an alliance with the Portuguese willingly though Kanhoji had of late shown himself to be very conciliatory to the Portuguese. Kanhoji was very much keen to break the Anglo-Portuguese alliance and was even ready to give a free passage to the Portuguese forces through his lands from Cheul to Bessein.





The Portuguese Viceroy proposed that he would place at the service of the English all his troops in the North together with a strong squadron of warships. But since the Portuguese did not entertain a high opinion of the fighting qualities of the English he insisted that before signing the treaty, the Fort of Mahim should admit a Portuguese garrison. In return, the Portuguese Viceroy undertook not to make a separate peace with Angre or as an alternative to deposit a sum of Rs.1,00,000/- with a person of credit to the satisfaction of both the parties, residing in any of the Portuguese territories.

The Bombay Government declined these proposals, and the negotiations were on the point of breaking down. When the English were vigorously cannonading Kolaba, the Portuguese Viceroy secretly fitted out a fleet of eight small war ships and a frigate with 800 men to lead a surprise attack on Vijaydurg. The Viceroy had information that the pals of the Angre had been run aground at this port with their crew absent at Kolaba<sup>67</sup>.

The Portuguese Viceroy had decided to send the General of the North to Alibag by land and intercept Kolaba's source of water supply. The governor of Bombay was informed about these plans, but the latter forestalled the Portuguese attack by sending his own fleet to Vijaydurg for the same purpose<sup>68</sup>.

Governor Boone, after his defeat at Khanderi, sent instructions to the fleet to proceed down the coast of Gheria and destroy and damage the fort and shipping of Kanhoji Angre.

The outcome of the expedition is mentioned in a letter to the Directors of the Company, dated 9th January 1719, it reads;

"On 23rd November three frigates with the galleys, a bomb Ketch, small fireship and some gallivats were sent to visit Angre's harbours to engage or burn his ghurabs Vissundroog they found one, but the five-vessels blown up, by a shot from the enemy, before she boarded the ghurabs going to Karwar to clean they met Angres fleet and took four of their prizes, which were on their way to Bombay, but the ghurabs got way there being very little wind<sup>69</sup>.

The log of Addison records that on 24th November that the vessel sailed from Kolaba, in company with Duke of York and all the company's war vessels, "They being bound to Visanbuke to destroy Angres ghurabs."<sup>70</sup>.

The Portuguese record informs, that moment the English fleet came in sight, the garrison opened fire and the English quitted the port, hotly pursued by the Angres fleet. On their way they met the Portuguese navy under captain Cardim Froes. The Portuguese gave chase to Angre for 48 hours, but without being able to overtake him. The Portuguese satisfied themselves with a 'Confia' of pathans, which the enemy were carrying under detention and which they were now obliged to leave behind.

In October 1718, the Portuguese and the English signed a defensive and offensive alliance against Kanhoji Angre. The Portuguese had planned a sound scheme for capturing or burning

the Angres pals at Gheria but were frustrated as the English side was indifferent in this campaign. The Portuguese were more doubtful about the English military process on that occasion. According to the Portuguese view the English resources were limited and insufficient.

Though Kanhoji's supremacy was an established and unchallenged fact Kanhoji Angre suddenly sought cessation of hostilities with the English through mediation of Shahu Maharaja though circumstances were in his favour; "On 30 January, 1719, the President informed the council that Shahu Raja had sent an envoy to him to conclude a peace (treaty) with the English nation, "In which Cannojee Angre his servant should be included and the Angre had also requested to send his servants."

The English operations against Khanderi had hardly affected the naval supremacy of Kanhoji Angre<sup>71</sup>.

But the news of the hostile preparations of the English and the Portuguese had reached Kanhoji Angre's ears. As he was not prepared at that time to face the combined might of the English and the Portuguese, he approached through Shahu Maharaja for the peace with the English<sup>72</sup>.

Shahu Maharaja sent his envoy to Bombay and after several discussions with Governor Boone, norms of mutual interest were agreed upon to the satisfaction of the Bombay Council. The terms discussed are not known, but Governor Boone wrote to the

Directors about the terms that were discussed with the envoy of Shahu Maharaja. Accordingly Kanhoji Angre agreed to restore all the ships except the "Success" which was badly damaged and pay a sum of Rs.70,000 for the goods captured as well as pay in cash for the damaged "Success". For this payment Shahu Maharaja undertook to be surety. Boone added that he had captured, from Kanhoji Angre prizes amounting to Rs.9,785/-. In addition, he also proposed a two percent tax on the people of Bombay as a war tax. This payment, Boone assured his Directors of the company in London, would go to recoup the company towards the expenditure of the Khanderi expedition.

The English sent captain John Mills to Kolaba to bring back the English prisoners from Kanhoji Angre. After reaching Kolaba, Captain Mills discovered that the prisoners were actually at Gheria. It was in Kolaba, that he learnt that the treaty had not been finalized. Captain Mills returned to Bombay after getting an assurance from Kanhoji Angre that when the terms of the treaty were finally settled; Angre would have the prisoners sent to Bombay with his own escort.

The process of settlement was going on and both sides had refrained from hurting each other.

S.M. Edwardes writes, explaining the Bombay council's attitude at this time, "Time was essential for perfecting their own resources until they were strong enough to sweep Angre from their path." The year 1719 may be said to have been a year of peace.

Governor Boone had continued to cultivate the friendship of the Sidi, who had been allowing the company's ships to take in supplies and water in his ports during their warfare with Kanhoji Angre. Governor Boone periodically sent the Sidi expensive presents to keep him in the same mood.

At the same time, Governor Boone constantly sent overtures to the Portuguese but the Portuguese Viceroy Conde de Ericeira was not inclined to forge an alliance with the East India Company because he had little faith in the power of the company's arms<sup>21</sup>.

The claim of the Angre to the sovereignty of the western Sea was universally recognised. As the Portuguese Viceroy reported in his letter to his Sovereign, on January 1721, he found that all the ships of the North were prepared to sail with Kanhoji's passports in order to be assured of their safety. Kanhoji also had levied an impost of Rs.7 lakhs from the coastal villages of North Konkan<sup>22</sup>.

Around the same time, the decline of the Portuguese power and the abnegation by Mughals of their claims to the Konkan (1720) further increased Angre's importance. A treaty with Shahu Maharaja permitted Kanhoji Angre, full freedom in the administration of Konkan and promised him quite enough resources for the navy so he considered the Maharaja of Satara as his Liege-lord and paid him tribute. After the peace treaty signed with Shahu Maharaja, Kanhoji's power increased inevitably. In 1721, Kanhoji's fleet included gurabs and gallivats numbering eight or ten and forty or fifty gallivats<sup>23</sup>.



When Kanhoji Angre found; by the middle of February 1720; that the Portuguese Viceroy was not eager to make common cause with the English. Hence Kanhoji put down the negotiations with the English.

Kanhoji's supremacy was felt even by the Mughals. The Mughal Governor of Surat now invited the English and the Portuguese to co-operate with him in defeating this powerful pirate.

On 14th May 1720, Kanhoji Angre captured some goods ships belonging to a merchant Mulna Mohmud Ali who had trade relationship with the English factories at Surat. This merchant informed the English to take immediate action against Kanhoji Angre.

The Governor of Surat "Sheikh Eslam Khan" also wrote about this incident to the Governor of Bombay informing his desire that both should come together for destroying the power of Angre<sup>66</sup>.

Governor Boone promised the subhedar of Surat of his assistance and the English were assiduously making preparations for the next season's hostilities against Kanhoji Angre. Boone advised the Subhedar to raise a large force of patrol boats to guard the Surat Coast, and also requested him to approach the Mughal Emperor to send an order to the Sidi of Janjira to aid the English by attacking Kanhoji Angre by land at the same time as the company attacked him by sea. But Boone was unsuccessful and nothing tangible came of this correspondence between the Mughals and the English<sup>77</sup>.



On his part, Kanhoji Angre was wooing the Mughals, in order to ensure that they would not join hands with the Company. He released the Mughal ships he had captured, unconditionally which may be the reason why the Mughals had no further interest in Kanhoji's differences with the English<sup>78</sup>.

Owing to the lack of response from the Mughals, the Sidi and the Portuguese, Governor Boone set themselves to the task of making the final arrangements for a new attack on Gheria.

On 5th September 1720, Boone appointed a committee for the expedition on Gheria. Governor Boone was chairman of the committee. Mr. Walter Brown was placed in over-all command of the operations<sup>79</sup>.

Unfortunately, the Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath died on 2nd April, 1720. His death was a irreparable loss to Shahu Maharaja. In his place Shahu Maharaja appointed Peshwa's elder son Bajirao as Peshwa. Balaji's death came as a great blow to Kanhoji Angre. Since the treaty of Kolaba (1713), Balaji had always stood by him. Their friendship had grown stronger with the years. Now Kanhoji Angre was not so sure that the Shahu Maharaj's preoccupations concerning the ghat regions would permit him to send any military help to the Konkan. So he would require urgent military assistance from outside. At the same time he was aware that the English were making restless preparations for an attack against him. They were trying to make common cause with the Mughals, the Sidi and the Portuguese.

The English were now in a position to invade any one of his principal forts and it would not be possible for Kanhoji Angre to dislodge them. Kanhoji's hostility with his southern neighbour, the powerful Sawant of Wadi, had also began to come into the open. Chhatrapati Sambhaji of Kolhapur too, was seeking to get outside help against Kanhoji.

Kanhoji's campaign of taking English ships continued but he was careful to take only such ships that did not bear his dastaks. At this time he did not interfere with the Portuguese shipping. The Sidi was also friendly since Kanhoji returned Mughal ship to the Viceroy of Surat.

In 1720, Kanhoji fortified Hiraokote which lies across the channel from Kolaba and built in the fort a new temple of his family Goddess "Kalimbika"<sup>80</sup>.

Nevertheless Governor Boone planned an expedition against Gheria. Mr. Walter Brown the Commander-in-Chief, set sail for the expedition against Gheria on 13 September, 1720. On 19th September the English fleet consisting of London-40 guns, Chandos 40 guns, Victory -26 guns, Revenge- 18 guns, Defiance -16 guns and Pelham - 16 guns; the galley, the Hunter; the Sloop, the Prince and the bomb Ketch, the terrible Bomb. Besides these ships, there were two gallivats, a fire-ship and an unspecified number of fishing boats for use as landing boats. The troops consisted of 350 English soldiers besides 80 chosen soldiers and large part of the sailors were expected to join in the landing<sup>81</sup>.

At fortification of Vijaydurga, two days of continuous bombardment yielded no result. On 20th, the enemy made a flanking movement and attacked the allies, killing six or seven soliders and wounding six others but were quickly put to flight.

On 21st, the army reached Kolaba within the range of Angre's guns. Finding the enemy strongly entrenched, the Viceroy moved up and encamped on the height across the river. An artillery duel then ensued, in which the Angre sustained heavy losses<sup>82</sup>.

At about 4 p.m. on 24th of September the Viceroy gave order for an assault on the Fort of Alibaug. The allied generals Lopes, Brithnell and Cowan led 500 picked European troops to the gates of the city, but finding them protected by stone and mortar, wall they threw some hand-granades within the place and returned in the face of 600 enemy horses.

On 27th September the "Pharm" the floating battery arrived. It was instantly sent to open fire against the fort. But "the Pharm" was not working properly. So it was repaired and made fit to put into action.

On 28th September, the Portuguese Viceroy was taken ill, and had to retire to his ship on medical advice. The command, thus 2 was passed to the English generals.

On 29th September an attempt was made to erect a battery from which to pound the wall. Two landing parties, one of 340 soldiers under Captain Woodward were kept ready to make the

assault. Firing from the guns of the entire squadron continued throughout the day. But the Marathas were quite ready and returned the fire with equal vigour. It was claimed by Walter Brown that he had destroyed two big ships of Angre and several other small vessels.

The first attempt of landing having failed disastrously the men refused to embark on another fruitless trial. The Sawant of Wadi had sent a special messenger to Walter Brown offering to help the English in their offensive against Angre, on condition that the English should first help him by attacking Angre's fort Deogad.

Accordingly, the English detached a part of their Flotilla on 7th October, and sent it off to Deogad under the command of Walter Brown. But then Walter Brown decided to abandon the idea of taking Gheria and transferred his headquarters to the environs of Deogad<sup>33</sup>.

The ship sent off to Deogad earlier had been lying idle in front of the fort. When Walter Brown reached Deogad on 18th October 1720 the Sawant did not turn up there to help the English. Walter Brown's proposal to land the force to capture the fort through assault, was rejected by all his officers.

On 21st October, the squadron gave up the action against Deogad also and set sail for Bombay when as ill-luck would have it, it fell in with privates and was dispersed.



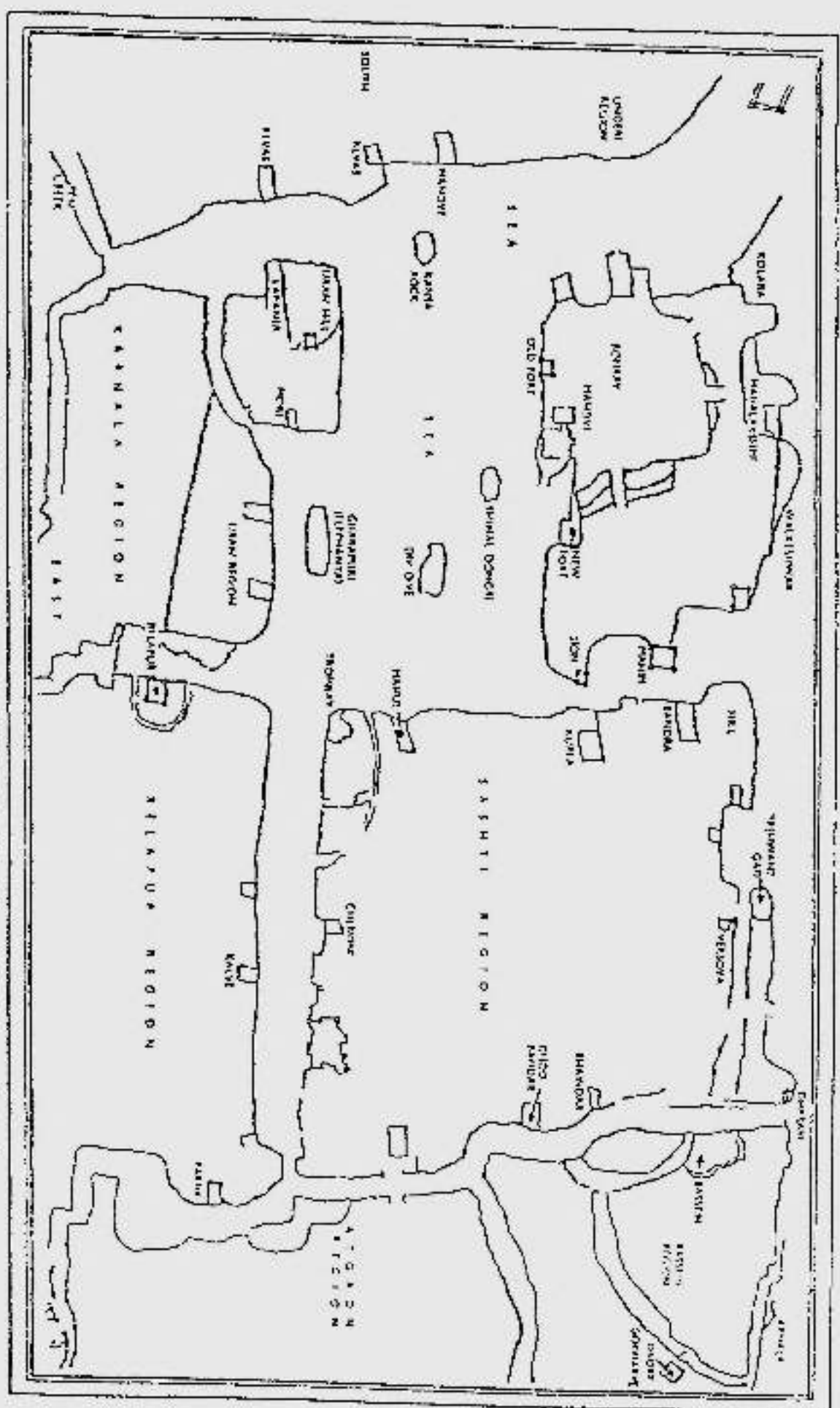


Fig. 2—Flora and the adjacent territory (by the courtesy of the Trustees of the Prince of Wales Museum, Bombay.)



The English attack on Vijaydurga was a total failure. Even, the Portuguese were also defeated in their attempt to capture the fort of Kolaba. By now, it was an established fact that no European power could stand against-Kanhoji Angre single-handed.

This expedition was a disastrous adventure. Forewarned of the impending danger, Angre was well prepared to face it. The ill-luck of the Anglo-Portuguese expedition undoubtedly contributed to Kanhoji's prestige, and he was soon free to seek his enemies at sea<sup>84</sup>.

The English and the Portuguese had suffered an ignominious defeat at the hands of Kanhoji Angre<sup>85</sup>. To make common cause against Kanhoji, these two European powers joined hands after the Kolaba expedition. Later, Bombay came as a gift from the Portuguese to the English king Charles II on his marriage to the Portuguese Princess the Infants Catherine of Braganza. The acquisition of Bombay by the English King in 1661 as part of his dowry was not accidental but purposeful. The Portuguese in India had very unwillingly parted with Bombay and were jealous of the progress and growth of the English influence on the West Coast of India. The Portuguese often suspected that the English were indulging in piracy; Portuguese Viceroy believed that Kanhoji Angre acquired his artillery and ammunition from Bombay, the Viceroy Conde de Ericeira further expressed his feat that the English would any time withdraw from the war with Kanhoji Angre when they saw the Portuguese involved in it. The Viceroy informed his successor



not to conclude any alliance with the English, the only power he could suggest as trustworthy was the Sidi of Janjira<sup>66</sup>.

Kanhoji Angre's position on the west coast of India was very strong due to his treaty with Shahu Maharaja in 1714. In this treaty terms, the Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath promised his help to Kanhoji Angre against the Europeans and the Abyssinians.

The Khanderi expedition of Governor Boone (November 1718) and the Portuguese attempt to take Kolaba by assault was the total failure of the European powers. They both had suffered heavily at the hands of Kanhoji Angre. Sensing danger from Kanhoji Angre, in September 1720, the Portuguese changed their attitude towards the English. In March 1721, the Government of Bombay sent Robert Cowan to Goa to open negotiations with the Portuguese. The Portuguese agreed to the proposal of the English of a joint attack on Kanhoji Angre. They forgot their conflict and talks were held. Both the powers agreed to finish Kanhoji and divide his ports equally<sup>67</sup>.

Robert Cowan assured the new Viceroy, Francisco Jose de Sampa Castro, that the English would "readily enter into measures as might enable both sides to chastise the common enemy Angre who not only interrupted our commerce but daily insulted the king of Portugal's subjects by land." The new viceroy readily accepted the terms of the English and a treaty of alliance was signed on 20th August 1721<sup>68</sup>.

According to the treaty, the Bombay Council was to furnish two thousand men and five ships and the Portuguese an equal number for an attack on Kolaba, the place to be occupied by the Portuguese while Gheria was to go to the English, none of the parties was to negotiate with the enemy without the consent of the other. The combined force was to assemble at Cheul and then march to Kolaba.<sup>39</sup>

In consequence, there was feverish activity in Bombay, Bassein and Goa. The arrival of a royal squadron in Bombay under commander Mathews, consisting of Lyon 50 guns, Salisbury 40 guns, Exeter 50 guns and Shoreham 20 guns further added to the strength of the allies.

However, Kanhoji Angre was a statesman of an extraordinary ability. The news of the hostile preparations of the English and the Portuguese soon reached him. He immediately made offers to compose his differences with the Portuguese and sent peace proposals to the Goa authorities. Kanhoji Angre sensed the peril to prevent, he dispatched to the Portuguese Viceroy a certain Frey Verisissimo with his terms, to avoid the English and the Portuguese alliance. The Viceroy strictly replied that no peace could be concluded with the Angre except on his own terms, and that if the reply did not reach him before 15th of May, he would no longer consider himself bound by the conditions he had suggested<sup>40</sup>.

Kanhoji in his reply wrote to the general of the North, Dom Antonio de Castro de Mello, that he was prepared to resist any

aggression on the part of the Portuguese. For that sake he had twenty thousand troops in readiness, besides those of his relations and friends, It would, therefore be better he added, to settle their differneces amicably. He blamed the Portuguese for having constantly fomenting an atmosphere of the war and asserted that he had never done anything else but to defend himself. This letter further perturbed the Viceroy and therefore the Anglo-Portuguese alliance on 20th August 1721, came into existence<sup>91</sup>.

The Portuguese Viceroy, however, was too sure of success curtly rejected Kanhoji's overtures and continued his war preparations.

The Anglo-Portuguese treaty which was signed on 20th August 1721 consisted of Fourteen Articles and provided for equal division of the spoils of the war and the conquered territories of the Naval strong holds of the Angre, Gheria going to the English and Kolaba to the Portuguese; and neither side was to make a separate peace but that all proposals for peace were to be either jointly considered or not at all<sup>92</sup>.

The news of these hostile activities soon reached Kanhoji who sent provisions and ammunition in the fort of Kolaba. The Viceroy sailed from Goa on 22nd November 1721, with his fleet and arrived on 1st December 1721 at Cheul. Here he joined the troops from the northern province. The English fleet also joined them with 2400 men and artillery. The Portuguese had a still larger force and carried 30 field-guns. The combined, well equipped army, of 6000, with



a powerful fleet was strong enough to destroy Angre's strongholds all along the coast<sup>93</sup>.

The combined force marched out from Cheul on 10th December and two days later crossed the Rago Cim river, they encamped near Earlee. When a party consisting of the Portuguese Viceroy, the General of the North, General Cowan and Commodore Mathews were conducting reconnaissance, one of Angre's horsemen had come behind a bush and hurled a spear at Mathews.

The greater part of the Maratha reinforcements promised by Shahu Maharaja was still on the way. Only the advance force had arrived under Pilaji Jadhav, with a force of 1500 a cavalry, men and 1000 infantry men to assist Kanhoji Angre. For the next ten days, the Anglo-Portuguese force was busy consolidating positions at the base camp near Earlee.

Kolaba was ready to meet the enemy. Kanhoji had the fort stocked with ammunition, food and water. He had 1,000 infantry and 700 cavalry in the fort itself.

On 20th December, Pilaji Jadhav's force sent by Maharaja Shahu, launched an attack at the combined base camp, but as he had to face a strong Portuguese artillery he withdrew<sup>94</sup>.

On 23rd December 1721, Angre's army marched as if to attack the Portuguese position but they were silenced.

Now Kanhoji found it difficult to cope with the combined force of the English and the Portuguese and defeat them. He, therefore, requested Shahu Maharaj to send succour to him. So, Bajirao Peshwa was deputed to Alibag to aid Kanhoji Angre. On 30 December 1721, Bajirao I, stationed 7000 cavalry at Alibag for the protection of the town<sup>95</sup>. On 1st January 1722 Bajirao Peshwa informed the Portuguese that his Maharaja was a friend of the Portuguese and that in his capacity as the Peshwa, he would help Kanhoji. He also said that for the protection of Kanhoji, he was ready to make war or peace with the Portuguese whatever was necessary<sup>96</sup>.

The Anglo Portuguese plan seemed to be that the English force should attack the fort while the Portuguses should withhold the Maratha force under Pilaji Jadhav which was now encamping at the northern end of the island.

The Anglo-Portuguese fleet laid siege to the fort of Kolaba. On the 24th December at about 4 p.m.<sup>97</sup>, the first wave of the attack against the fort was mounted by the English, on viceroys. In spite of the severe opposition from the besieged, the English attempted to scale the walls of the fort. Some of them even succeeded in scaling the side-walls of the fort. But, the attacking party at the gate of the fort could not withhold the strong assault of the Maratha forces, and were soon on the retreat. At this time, Pilaji Jadhav with his cavalry attacked the Portuguese, who were expecting an order to march on the fort. The Portuguese were taken unawares,



their guns of their artillery were trained at the fort. The Maratha lost no time in inflicting a crushing defeat on the Portuguese who retreated to their base camp near Earlee. Kanhoji had also sent a detachment to attack the retreating English<sup>98</sup>.

Commodore Thomas Mathews, who had been watching the battle from his flagship, *Lion*, blames the Portuguese for the failure and insulted the Portuguese Viceroy of Goa. Commodore Mathews, furious at the defeat did not hesitate to charge the Portuguese with treachery. No further co-operation was possible after the Commodore's conduct<sup>99</sup>.

The Viceroy of Goa complained of illness and retired to his cabin on board the ship. Dowling writes, that on hearing the illness of the Viceroy, Commodore Mathews sent his personal Doctor to treat him; who returned and told that he found nothing wrong with the patient.

The Portuguese Viceroy aware of situation, readily accepted peace terms with Bajirao I, but his English counterpart would not accept it. According to the treaty concluded with the English, the Viceroy was unable to come to terms with Kanhoji Angre without the concurrence of the English. A way was indeed found out by the Portuguese but the Portuguese signed an accord not with the Angre but his master Shahu Maharaja.

On 12th January 1722, a treaty between the Portuguese and Bajirao I was concluded<sup>100</sup>. According to treaty terms, the



Portuguese agreed that they would not convey the ships belonging to the enemies of the Marathas. The Portuguese promised their assistance to the Marathas against such enemies who were open to each other, without any restrictions in buying provisions or arms and ammunitions at a just price. Both the parties agreed to return the ships captured by them<sup>101</sup>.

The peace terms were conveyed to the English agent, Robert Cowan and the English were invited to accept them within eight days. However, the English complained that the Portuguese had sacrificed their interests and did not participate in the negotiations. The English sailed back to Bombay. Thus, the joint attempts of the Portuguese and English to subdue Kanhoji Angre failed miserably. Kanhoji's prestige on the contrary enhanced.

There was mutual distrust between the English and the Portuguese which was going on for more than a century of rivalry and warfare. So, the failure of the Anglo-Portuguese alliance after the expedition of Kolaba contributed to Kanhoji's prestige. So, Kanhoji was free to give blows to the English since the Portuguese were now at peace with him.

On the 27th February 1722, Kanhoji's fleet of four pals and twenty gallivats engaged the two English Frigates the Eagle and the Hunter was blown up by the Angres, and the Eagle severely damaged some how succeeded in reaching a small Portuguese port near Bassein<sup>102</sup>.

This terrified the English so much that on 12th March a letter was received from the Captain of Revenge (at Rajapore) that he did not dare to proceed without reinforcements with the merchant ships under his convey as he was informed that the Angre gharabs were at Kolaba<sup>103</sup>.

The Eagle and the "Bombay Merchant" did not leave their safe asylum at Shivgaon until they were informed that Kanhoji's fleet had proceeded southwards.

In April 1722, Kanhoji captured an 'East Indiaman' loaded with merchandise and bullion, and in October of the same year, there was a fierce naval battle between the company's fleet and one of Kanhoji sailed in person with five thousand men from Kolaba, leaving his eldest son Sekhoji in charge of the Government. The Portuguese informed that Kanhoji openly declared that he would not return so long as the name of the English was heard on that coast<sup>104</sup>.

However Kanhoji was unable to achieve his objective and showed propensity towards the Portuguese with an offer of an alliance. But the Portuguese rejected Kanhoji's offer because of his growing power and composed their differences with the English<sup>105</sup>.

On 5th November one of Kanhoji's ships was disabled and captured near Versova when Kanhoji's Chief Commander Shivaji Naik was captured with his flagship by the English<sup>106</sup>.

On the 20th October 1723 twelve of Angre's gallivats appeared in the waters facing Bombay and assualted two English crusiers "who went to convoy two small vessels belonging to the island bound for Muscut and after some fights took them all"<sup>107</sup>.

The hostilities with the English continued with pauses at intervals, Kanhoji expressing willingness to make peace with them. On 24th May 1724, Kanhoji Angre wrote a friendly letter to the new Governor William Phipps who had succeeded Boone as the Governor of Bombay. In this letter Kanhoji offered peace towards the English but the Governor turned down Kanhoji's offer and appealed him to abandon piracy and cease war and demanded the release of the prisoners. 'Thus William Phipps' reply was notable by sarcastic remarks about the Government of Kanhoji; it further added "It is observed that greatness pursued after and obtained by these means is of short duration, whereas a state improving and flourishing through trade is of a much longer continuance and never decays but through corrupt Councils"<sup>108</sup>.

Kanhoji's reply to the above letter dated 7th August 1724. He wrote, "the truth of which your excellency will soon find out when you examine both sides - for as touching the desire of possessing what is anothers I do not even find the merchants exempt from this sort of ambition———". Kanhoji added. "It little behoves merchants, I am sure, to say our Government is supported by violence, insults, and piracies: for as much as Maharaja (which is Shivaji) making war against four kings founded and established his



kingdom, and this was our introduction and beginning and whether or no by these ways this Government hath proved durable your excellency well know"<sup>109</sup>.

Kanhoji's over-riding motive may have been to secure the release of his friend Shivaji Naik, who was taken a prisoner in a pal which was captured by the English near cape Rama. But this was not the only cause that led Kanhoji to open peace terms with the English. About this time Kanhoji's warfare with the Sawant of Wadi had brought him a new enemy, the Dutch. It was the third European power against Kolaba in the years 1723-24 A.D.

### **KANHOJI ANGRE & THE DUTCH**

The English and the Dutch were fighting deadly battles for supremacy in trade in the Indian Ocean, in Java and Sumatra and later in Ceylon. The Dutch had a small factory at Surat and at Vengurla a small establishment but it was neither strongly garrisoned nor fortified.

Like the English and the Portuguese, the Dutch also suffered heavily at the hands of Kanhoji Angre. As early as 1703, Kanhoji Angre seized a Dutch warship of thirty guns<sup>110</sup>. In a letter dated 11th March 1702-03 John Burniston, Deputy Governor of Bombay, informed Sir John Gayer.

"We have a report of Kanhoji Angre's trapping a Dutch ship of 30 guns. Who put in their port for wood and water. Which their boats went for. The Villain took his opportunity of seizing

them and sending his people in gallivats on board, who being hauled by the ship, answered that they had provision for them, and on such a pretence surprised and mastered her"<sup>11</sup>.

It is not known, what was a reaction of the Dutch to Kanhoji's seizure of their ship. But as Kanhoji captured a Dutch sloop and galley in 1710 it can be deduced that peace had not been established between the Dutch and Kanhoji Angre<sup>12</sup>.

Kanhoji Angre was asked by the Dutch, to restore the ship with all their belongings, but Kanhoji retorted that, "he is not aware of any friendship existing between him and the company, nor of any correspondence over the matter. He does not molest such merchants as make him presents as do for instance the English, Portuguese and Moors. Finally he does not hold himself responsible for the return of prizes"<sup>13</sup>.

The Dutch Commodore of Malbar made some correspondence with his official chiefs at Batavia about some effective action against Kanhoji's highhandedness on the high seas but nothing seems to have resulted from it<sup>14</sup>.

In 1723 Kanhoji was engaged in hostilities with the Sawant of Wadi and was threatened by the Dutch<sup>15</sup>.

In 1724 A.D. the Dutch attacked Vijaydurg with no less than seven warships, two bomb vessels, and a body of regular troops. They also failed; and Kanhoji Angre, the old Maratha admiral,



victorious alike over English, Dutch and Portuguese sailed the Arabian sea in triumph<sup>116</sup>.

The exchange of letters between Kanhoji Angre and William Phipps produced some desirable results in that it secured the release of prisoners on both sides<sup>117</sup>. The exchange of prisoners was not followed by peace and clashes between Angre and the English continued till the end.

Kanhoji had to pay tribute annually for holding the Konkan for Shahu. In the year 1725 Kanhoji visited the Court of Satara to pay tribute to his Maharaja Shahu. He was respected by Shahu Maharaja and after a short period Kanhoji returned to Kolaba<sup>118</sup>.

The Sawant of Wadi had been getting increasingly hostile towards Kanhoji Angre and making efforts to get the help of the European powers against him. The invasion of the Sawant of Wadi was repulsed by Kanhoji's officers in their territories. The defeated Sawant requested the Portuguese for help which was promised by the Portuguese secretly. Kanhoji secured through the mediation of Shahu Maharaja treaty with the ruler of Sawantwadi<sup>119</sup>. But the peace for treaty did not last long. The ruler of the Sawantwadi entered into treaty terms of offensive and defensive alliance with the English against Kanhoji Angre which became a reality in the years 1729-30. They agreed that neither should attack the ships of the other, that the English ships attacked by the army should receive all the aid and assistance, their ports should be open and free to each other for trade, that they should join hands to attack



the sons of Kanhoji and that the English should supply the Bhosle of Sawantwadi with war like stores and artillery<sup>120</sup>.

The dispute between the Sidis and the Marathas was settled to the advantage of the Marathas. The Sidis deprived of their power and prestige were completely humbled. They dared not raise their head against the Marathas till 1725. But the Sidis continued to harass the Hindus of the Konkan and often committed outrages against them<sup>121</sup>.

According to Portuguese sources, Kanhoji entered into pact with Shahu Maharaja to capture the fort of Raigad from the Sidi for which Shahu Maharaja sent 500 select cavalry to assist Angre. The Sidi got scent of this and made perfect preparations to defend the fort and the Marathas were compelled to abandon the project for sometime<sup>122</sup>.

The Nizam saw that Peshwa Bajirao I was away in Karnatak. Therefore, he instigated the Sidi to ravage the Maratha territory below the fort of Palkhed in April 1725. Accordingly Siddi instantly carried out his desire. Now the Marathas were bound by honour and obligation to punish him, stop his further depredation for, according to their treaty of 1719 with the Emperor, the Marathas were pleased to keep peace in Konkan which was included in the Deccan. The Sidis fleet appeared before Kolaba early in 1725. With twelve pats and two frigates and no less than 100 gallivats, Kanhoji got over this expedition of the Sidi by paying him a large sum of money<sup>123</sup>. Kanhoji hastened to compose his differences

with the English. He feared that the English would join hands with the Sidi and hence hurriedly negotiated for peace and exchange of prisoners.

Kanhoji's fears proved true. The English of Bombay were ready to help the Sidi as it is clear from the president's report of 1724; it says, *inter alia*, that the Sidi Sat of Anjanvel or Dabhol has at sundry times sent off to our vessels provisions and refreshments while cruising off that port and been otherwise very courteous in his advices in relation to Angre<sup>174</sup>.

#### **EPISODE OF BRAHAMENDRA SWAMI'S ELEPHANT**

During Aurangzeb's campaign in Maharashtra, the Sidi had extended to him valuable help both on land and sea. In return he had bestowed on him Mahad, Dabhol, Raigad and a number of other strong holds along the Konkan coast. The Sidi's possession of Raigad was particularly offensive to the Maratha Kings; for it was associated with the name of the great King Shivaji. These political circumstances were aggravated by a personal quarrel between one of Sidis, Sat Sidi by name, and one Brahmendra Swami<sup>125</sup>.

Brahmendra Swami was one of the most controversial man in Maratha History. He was compared with saint Ramdas by his admirers and he certainly enjoyed during his life-time great respect from the Maharaja Shahu and his eminent men who surrounded him.

Brahmendra Swami had spent the early part of his life near Chiplun at Parashuram Village but he left Konkan for Satara on

witnessing the outrages of Sidi<sup>126</sup>. As Brahmendra Swami's reputation spread he devoted himself to the collection of funds for the restoration of Parshuram temple at Chiplun. Shahu Maharaja held Brahmendra Swami in great respect. In the war between Shahu and Tarabai, Brahmendra Swami supported Shahu and later supported the claims of Balaji Vishwanath to the post of first Peshwa. The grateful Peshwa induced the Maharaja Shahu to bestow on him Dhavadshi, a village near Satara<sup>127</sup>. The chief of the Sidis, Rasul Yakut Khan, gave Swami the revenues of the villages of Ambadas and Pedhe. Bajirao I bestowed the village Pimpri<sup>128</sup>.

An interesting episode at this time soured relations between the Sidi and Marathas. Brahmendra Swami during one of his peregrinations to Karnataka in 1726 Sidi Sat of Anjanvel in view of his cordial relations with the swami requested him to bring with him an elephant gifted to the Sidi of Janjira by the Nabab of Savanur. As the Sidi had started hostilities against the Marathas, the elephant could not be brought to Janjira through the Maratha territories. This was the reason why the Sidi sought the help of Swami<sup>129</sup>.

Brahmendra Swami took the responsibility of bringing the elephant along with him. The Swami crossed the Vishalgad pass with the elephant, and entered the Konkan. When Swami entered the territory of Kanhoji Angre, from whom he had not thought fit to obtain permit as Angre was his devoted admirer, he sent the elephant ahead and himself followed leisurely. When the elephant

reached beyond Sangmeshwar, however, some of Kanhoji's forest officers, on learning that the paduderm belonged to one of the Sidis captured it and sent it to Jaigad one of Angre's forts, as it carried no pass of Kanhoji Angre<sup>130</sup>. Brahmendra Swami's feelings were extremely hurt at the incident and he wrote to Kanhoji Angre. The latter at once ordered the elephant's release and expressed deep regret for his subordinate's action. In the meantime Sat Sidi had heard of the animal's capture. He sent a force against Raigad which Angre, who had not then received the letter of his Swami, attacked and defeated Sidi inflicting heavy losses on him. This added fuel to the fire and the Sidi suspecting Swami's hand in the affair led an Army, attacked the temple of Parshuram in February 1727 on the holy day of Shivratri, when many devotees had gathered to offer prayers. The Sidi Sat desecrated and destroyed the temple of Parshuram and stripped it of all its wealth. The people and the priests were subjected to torture<sup>131</sup>.

In the meantime the Swami got the elephant released from Kanhoji and sent it to the Sidi, But when he came to know of the outrages of the Sidi he cursed the Sidi with destruction. Brahmendra Swami left Konkan for the Desh and pressed Shahu and Maratha Sardars to take revenge on the Sidi. Maharaja Shahu was waiting for an opportunity to aid Kanhoji with the army. However during the life time of Kanhoji the necessary help could not be sent<sup>132</sup>.

The English by concluding treaties with the ruler of Sawantwadi and the Sidi of Janjira, attempted to isolate Kanhoji Angre<sup>133</sup>.

In January 1728 Kanhoji again opened negotiations for peace with the English, Governor William Phipps was not prepared to accept any terms except the total restoration of all the captured ships and their charge and the peace proposals came to a stop<sup>134</sup>.

On 17th January 1729 Kanhoji's gallivats fell upon the English vessel the Shark almost within sight of Bombay and carried it triumphantly to Khanderi and later on it was transferred to Kolaba. This is probably the last notable achievement of the Maratha fleet under admiral Kanhoji Angre<sup>135</sup>.

All throughout the year and in the early part of 1729, Kanhoji received several invitations from Shahu Maharaja and Peshwa Bajirao I to visit Satara for the sole purpose of discussing the steps to be taken against the Sidi<sup>136</sup>. Kanhoji kept putting them off on one excuse or the other. From the spring of 1729, it was no longer necessary for him to find excuses, he was taken ill.

Kanhoji died on 4th July 1729 A.D.<sup>137</sup>. Till his death he was the master of the entire coastal area, excepting Dabhol and Anjanwel held by the Sidis of Janjira. After the death of Kanhoji in 1729, of his sons, Sekhoji succeeded him at Kolaba and was given Sarkhelship by Shahu<sup>138</sup>. Sambhaji, Sekhoji's brother, was given the charge of Suvarnadurg.

Kanhoji Angre may be regarded as the second founder of the Maratha navy. He was inspired, as he wrote in his letter to Governor Phipps, by Shivaji's example and whatever may be said



of his naval practices, he undoubtedly elevated and maintained prestige at sea. Thus Kanhoji Angre enforced the Maratha claims on the sea against the mighty European powers such as the English, the Portuguese and the Dutch till his death. After Shivaji's death; Kanhoji Angre with strong efforts strengthened the small naval unit of the Marathas into a powerful naval power, which was dreaded by the European powers in India and all their efforts to crush the naval power of Kanhoji Angre had proved in vain. He defied the joint efforts of the English, the Portuguese and the Sidi, and in his wars by land and sea he had given evidence not only of remarkable seamanship but also of astute diplomacy. In his foreign relation he could hardly be blamed of treachery or deception.

A student of history knows that Kanhoji made no important improvements in naval strategy and armaments; which till the days of his sons, remained as crude and as primitive as when Shivaji launched his fleet on the Arabian Sea. But he left an extensive province and a strong and respectable fleet to his heirs, who had they possessed his prudence and moderation, might have added immensely to the prestige and power they had inherited from their father. Kanhoji Angre indeed place in the plenitude of power and prestige the Maratha navy after Shivaji.



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### CHAUCE FORT

VIEW OF THE CHAUCE FORT FROM THE SEA.

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## CHAPTER III

### SEKHOJI (1729-1733 A.D.)

Kanhoji Angre died on 4th July, 1729 after short illness. Kanhoji had three wives - Mathurabai, Lakshmibai and Gahinabai, besides some concubines. He left behind six sons, two legitimate, Sekhoji and Sambhaji and four illegitimate. Tulaji, Mahaji, Dhondaji and Yesaji. The two legitimate sons divided their father's possessions. Sekhoji, the elder son assumed charge of his father's gadi of Kolaba and Sambhaji the younger got Suvarnadurg, in Ratnagiri.

When Kanhoji died, the Angres and the Marathas were continuing war against Sidi. At this time an incident took place which flared up the war between the Angres and Sidi. Brahmendra Swami Dhawadshikar had gone to Karnataka for collecting alms from his followers in the Karnataka in 1726. While he was going to Karnataka the Sidi Sat of Anjanwel requested him to bring with him from Savanur-Nabab an elephant which was given by the Nabab to the Sidi as a gift. The swami took upon himself the responsibility of carrying the elephant safe to Anjanwel by obtaining permit for the passage for the elephant from the Angre, through whose territory the Swami had to travel. On arriving at Vishalgad he entered in the territory of Kanhoji Angre from whom he didn't obtain a permit as the Angre was his devoted admirer. Therefore with the sense of relief he sent the elephant ahead and himself followed leisurely.



Governor Sidi Sat who had developed an aversion toward the Swami laid an Army attached the temple of Parshuram on the Shivaratri day when huge crowd of men and women had gathered to worship the God Shiva. He desecrated and destroyed the temple and stripped it of all its wealth. The people and the priest were tortured. This incident took place when Swami was away. But when he came to know of the outrage of Sidi he cursed him. On seeing the ruin of Parshuram temple he got disgusted and left the Konkan and came to the Desh. The chief Sidi, Yakut of Janjira was also swami's disciple and came to know the outrages committed by his officers. He deeply regretted it and ordered Sidi Sat to restore all the wealth taken from temple and promised to build it<sup>1</sup>. Kanhoji Angre also pleaded with the Swami to remain in the Konkan. Accordingly the Swami remained the another year but got disgusted with Sidi Sat's continued arrogance and allowed him to go to the Desh<sup>2</sup>. The Angre requested Swami to persuade the Peshwa Bajirao to co-operate with him in the destruction of the Sidi. In 1728 The Swami, finally left the Konkan and ascending the ghats went to live in Dhavadashi<sup>3</sup>. There he was welcomed by Shahu Maharaj and his nobles and remained there till the end of his life.

On arrival of the Swami at Dhavadashi Shahu Maharaj gave the serious thought for an expedition against Sidi. He deputed the Pratinidhi against the Sidi as the Peshwa Bajirao was entangled in the campaign against the Nizam. The other reason for selecting Pratinidhi was that he had Jahagir in Konkan. Pilaji Jadhav was asked to assist him. It was decided that Pilaji Jadhav should march



against the Portuguese and prevent them from assisting the Sidi for the Sidi and the Portuguese were on the friendly terms. The Pratinidhi went to Konkan but he went so lingering that his help was of no use to the Angre in defeating the Sidi. In the meantime the Peshwa Bajirao got victory over Nizam in March 1728. It was reported to the Peshwa Bajirao that Pratinidhi had achieved nothing in the Konkan. He wasted his time in Konkan without accomplishing anything. Owing to the death of Kanhoji in 1729, the Sidi grew very defiant and took advantage of family squabbles between the Angre's sons to increase his power at their cost<sup>4</sup>. Early in 1730 the campaign was renewed and Pratinidhi was asked to march towards Kolaba and Ratnagiri<sup>5</sup> and Pilaji was sent towards Kalvan against the Portuguese. Pratinidhi's attempt was futile<sup>6</sup>. Pratinidhi requested Shahu Maharaj from his camp to recall him back. Accordingly he was soon recalled and given the command at the troops against affairs of the Konkan failed into disorder on account of the quarrels between Sekhoji and Sambhaji, the two sons of Kanhoji Angre. In 1731 the trouble was fomented by the Peshwa Bajirao and Brahmendra Swami to weaken the Angre's power. In 1731 after quarreling with his brother Sekhoji, Sambhaji went to Suvarnadurga south of Kolaba and made it the head quarters of his fleet. Shahu Maharaj failed to bring reconciliation among them. Sekhoji joined Bajirao against the Pratinidhi in 1732<sup>7</sup>. Due to this quarrel the operation at the Marathas in the Konkan was seriously hampered and that to the advantage of the Sidi<sup>8</sup>. So far the affairs of the Konkan remain unsettled. The Peshwa Bajirao became free by the end of 1732 after the final

settlement with Nizam in August 1731 and victory over Dabhade so he resolved to take up affairs of the Konkan in hand. It was his intention to be supreme in the Konkan by liquidating the Sidi, the Portuguese and the Angre.

Once again in 1732 Shripatrao Pratinidhi was sent in Konkan by Shahu Maharaj. Sekhoji Angre asked his assistant Bankoji Naik to help the Pratinidhi. In March of that year Pratinidhi lead siege to Anjanwel and about the same time Bankoji Naik engaged Sidi Sat in a tough fight at Chiplun and defeated him. From Chiplun he passed onto Govalkot which was wanted to invest but he met Pratinidhi who advised him to resist from the attack as the Sidi has promised him to pay his respect to Shahu Maharaj at Satara and stop the war provided the Angre was driven out of the Konkan<sup>9</sup>. Bankaji Naik went back to his chief Sekhoji Angre to speak the mind of Pratinidhi<sup>10</sup>.

The Pratinidhi got completely disillusioned when the Sidi started constant harassing him by changing friendship into enmity against the Pratinidhi<sup>11</sup>. When Shahu Maharaj heard about the Pratinidhi's performance he got sadly disappointed and appointed Bajirao to take the supreme command of Konkan expedition and wrote a stinging letter to him to come back to Satara<sup>12</sup>.

### **BAJIRAO UNDERTAKES KONKAN CAMPAIGN :**

While deciding to undertake the Konkan campaign the Peshwa Bajirao came to know the death of Sidi Rasul Yakut, the chief of



the Sidi, in February 1733. After his death a serious trouble began with regard to the succession among his sons.

Sidi Yakut had a number of sons of whom Abdulha was the eldest and rightful heir to the throne but claim was disputed by his brothers and son. His seven Governors also fished in trouble water. One of them Shaikh Yakub Khan a Hindu convert was the most capable and recalcitrant. He had proved rebellious even during Yakut Khan's life time<sup>13</sup>. These civil strifes were fomented by Prabhu Sardar Yashvantrao Potnis who had been sent to the Konkan by Shahu Maharaj for that purpose. At the instigation of Potnis, Sidi Rahaman the son and rival of Sidi Abdulha fled from Janjira and came to take refuge with Potnis.

He found that his uncles had shut the gates of the fort against him and had seized his father and murdered him<sup>14</sup>. Sidi Rahaman was promised the command of the fleet and the large portion at the possession of the Sidi for his siding with the Marathas<sup>15</sup>. When the ground was thus prepared Shahu Maharaj give the command of the expedition against the Sidi to the Peshwa Bajirao. Pratinidhi was also asked to start in advance and Bajirao and Fattesingh Bhosale should follow him with the main body of the army. But Bajirao and Fattesingh arrived in Konkan in April 1733 and opened the campaign with great vigour<sup>16</sup>.

The Peshwa arrived in Konkan by the shortest route through the mountainous Bhor country by way of Pali, Kelar near Surgad, Sikare and arrived before Hajpuri on the last day of Baishaki (2nd

May 1733) completing his march within a week<sup>17</sup>. A local Sardar showed the Peshwa the way to Khokhari Rajkot, Balaraj and Rajapuri which were captured by the Marathas<sup>18</sup>. The Sidi's fleet lying in the port was also captured by the Marathas<sup>19</sup>. Shekhji, the powerful Sidi sardar was won over by the Marathas. He sat with the Peshwa at Balaroza at Rajpuri<sup>20</sup> to conduct the operations of the seize. The Peshwa Bajirao was knowing well that to achieve success against Janjira he should have a support of the navy. He therefore asked Sekhoji Angre, the son of Kanhoji Angre, who was made Sarkhel, after latter's death to meet him at Pali on his way to Rajapuri<sup>21</sup>. Thereupon Sekhoji Angre explained to the Peshwa his difficulties in sending his contingent of men and joining personally in the campaign<sup>22</sup>. He however met the Peshwa at Rajapuri on 6th May 1733. The Sidi's fleet was handed over to him. Sekhoji was with the Peshwa at Rajapuri for fifteen days. He left the Peshwa and arrived at Kolaba on 27-5-1733 via Murud, Mandgaon and Chaul<sup>23</sup>.

As stated earlier, after the execution of Sambhaji, the Sidis had extended their power in Konkan. Besides Janjira and Underi, the Sidis had in their possession Anjanwel and Gowalkot (Angre's stronghold). Sidi Sambal and Sidi Amber managed the affairs of Janjira<sup>24</sup>. Sidi sat had Gowalkat and Anjanwel in his possession. Sidi Ballal was the commandant of Underi.

The Peshwa Bajirao had a clear picture in his mind about the stupendous nature of the Janjira campaign. This is clearly brought

out by the Peshwa Bajirao in his letter dated 26th May 1733 to Abaji Pant Purandare as follows :

"In spite of a number of attempts the Side has remained unbeaten. At least fifteen thousand soldiers, half of whom should be match lookmen are necessary to besiege him. Formerly he had only one fort, now he is more powerful because of the acquisition of Anjanvel and Underi. I suggest that the Pratinidhi and the Sarkhel should capture Anjanvel and Underi respectively. I expect the siege to last for a couple of years"<sup>25</sup>.

**PART PLAYED BY SEKHOJI ANGRE**  
**IN KONKAN CAMPAIGN**

Maharaj Shahu had asked Sekhoji Angre to join the Peshwa Bajirao to help him to achieve success in Konkan campaign. In the last week of April 1733, Sekhoji was busy in capturing Ratnagiri from Sidi. After taking over Ratnagiri from the Sidi, Sekhoji feared some trouble round about Ratnagiri. So, his contingent remained engaged in guarding Ratnagiri against possible attack of the Sidi<sup>26</sup>. Thereafter, Sekhoji met the Peshwa at Rajapuri and was with him for a fortnight from 9.7.1733<sup>27</sup> as mentioned earlier. Sekhoji considered Underi as a hand of fort Janjira and showed his readiness to go and capture it<sup>28</sup>.

At the beginning of June 1733, Sekhoji provided some artisans (sailors, carpenters, lohars etc.) to the Peshwa as required by him as measures against the enemy<sup>29</sup>. Sekhoji also ruled out the probability of an open attack by him<sup>30</sup>. At the same time, he took





measures for an opening an attack on the fort of Thal<sup>31</sup> after capturing Rajkot and Cheul<sup>32</sup>. Sekhoji informed his victory at Cheul<sup>33</sup> to Chimaji Apa. Tajuddin Khan held the Mughal at Rajkot near Cheul<sup>34</sup>. He had destroyed an old temple near Rajkot. He used to carry on espionage on the Angres for the Sidis<sup>35</sup>. His general Tukoji Kadu made an assault and captured Rajkot on 2 June 1733<sup>36</sup>. Sekhoji Angre asked for Peshwa's help for an attack on Thal<sup>37</sup> which was in the possession of the Sidis. Thal was attacked by Sekhoji. In the battle that ensued, the horse under Sekhoji Angre was struck by a shell from Underi, Sekhoji fortunately escaped<sup>38</sup>.

The Maratha force under Sekhoji captured Thal on 7 July 1733<sup>39</sup>. The Marathas had earlier captured the Gadhi (small hillock) of Rewas, on 4 July 1733<sup>40</sup>. Those who offered resistance were killed and the rest fled away. Sekhoji explained to the Peshwa how he was blamed and carried on the assault on fort of Thal. He also suggested the measures for defending the captured places<sup>40</sup>. The English were alarmed at the capture of the Thal by the Angre and his intentions about Underi<sup>41</sup>.

### **OPERATION AGAINST UNDERI**

By his letter 8.6.1733, Sekhoji Angre assured the Peshwa Bajirao that he would start operations against Underi and promised to do his utmost to carry them out successfully<sup>42</sup>. By another letter of the same date Sekhoji brought to the notice of the Peshwa, intentions of the Portuguese at Uran to capture Nagothane, Pen, Panvel and Ambhe, the villages on the bank of rivulet. To prevent



Portuguese action, he suggested the Peshwa Bajirao to pose some guards at important places to detach the Portuguese and others who carry succor to the Sidis<sup>43</sup>.

As mentioned earlier, Tajuddin Khan had destroyed a temple of Bhargav at Cheul. Sekhoji undertook repairs of the temple and requested the Peshwa Bajirao to order one Khandi of Chunam to be given for the repairs of that temple<sup>44</sup>.

By letter dated 14.6.1733, sekhoji asked the Peshwa to send as many men as possible for undertaking Underi campaign<sup>45</sup>. Fort Ravali near the river Pen was captured by Sekhoji from Sidi. In the month of July 1733 Bankaji Naik Mahadik subordinate of Sekhoji occupied Bankot and Mandangad fort and led his victorious armies on Goalkot and Anjanvel, which were ably defended by Sidi Sat. As they were in the vicinity of the shrine at Chiplun, a fierce battle was fought at Gowalkot in the 2nd week of July and Sidi was defeated<sup>46</sup> but he fled but he fled to the fort and did not surrender it.

The Peshwa Bajirao captured the forts of Thal and Ghosala. All the Sidi princes came together at the fort<sup>47</sup> Janjira and made vigorous preparations to oppose the Marathas. The Peshwa Bajirao opened the fire on the fortress from the main land. Manaji Angre, Sekhoji's brother attacked it from the sea and captured the Sidi's fleet in the port. Thereafter Pratinidhi was directed to capture Anjanvel<sup>48</sup>.

Bakaji Mahadik was also asked to proceed against Anjanvel. He passed by the Parashuram temple and wrote on 16th July 1733 that "Thus on the way I found a Sidi officer's intent on destroying this (Parsaram) a holy place, plundering and burning the houses of the Brahmins and slaughtering cows. I at once attacked the enemy and after a stubborn fight, pushed him back across the river"<sup>49</sup>. How the religious feelings ran high shown by the fact that the various communities inhabiting this region represented to the Peshwa that they were ready to collect funds of one lac by private contributions for preventing religious atrocities in future"<sup>50</sup>.

On the advice from Sekhoji, the Peshwa Bajirao established outposts at Danda, Rajapuri, Nanivali and Kumbhane post from which Sidi was suspected of drawing provisions<sup>51</sup>. To seduce the garrison of Janjira the Peshwa as advised by Sekhoji to declare that his intentions were limited to settle the succession of Abdul Rahaman and establish a lasting peace between the two neighbours<sup>52</sup>.

In the operation against the Sidis, the whole Angre family viz. Sekhoji's brother Sambhaji, Manaji, together with Laxmibai and Mathurabai (the two widows of Kanhoji) threw themselves wholeheartedly into the war, as can be seen from the letter Laxmibai Angre sent to the Peshwa Bajirao important details of the Pratinidhi's dealings with the Sidi, his disagreement with Bakaji Naik and other matters of the campaign. In this letter she took an important resume of the whole affairs<sup>53</sup>. She had even offered to send supplies to Bajirao according to his desires<sup>54</sup>.

## **PRATINIDHI IN KONKAN**

### **CAPTURE OF RAIGAD**

It is already stated earlier that Shahu Maharaj selected Pratinidhi for Konkan campaign as he had Jagir in Konkan. He was instructed by the Maharaj to move to Konkan in April 1733 and Bajirao and Fattesing Bhosale were to follow him. But, Pratinidhi entered into Konkan on 20th May 1733 after Bajirao. Shahu Maharaj was anxious to bring Raigad in Swarajya. Raigad fort was very strong and it could not be conquered without the help of the force. The Peshwa Bajirao tried to play intrigues on the authorities Raigad<sup>55</sup> on 26th May 1733. The Peshwa Bajirao had written to Ambaji Pant Purandare, "It is likely that Raigad would come in our possession through negotiations if not a force of 1500 to 2000 troops would be required to capture it<sup>56</sup>.

To conquer Raigad, a force of 600 to 700 troops of the Peshwa Bajirao had encamped at Pachad and had remained there by establishing Chowki for exerting pressure and occupy the fort<sup>57</sup>. Fattesing Bhosale's soldiers also came to Pachad to help the Peshwa Bajirao's soldiers. Fattesingh declared that with the permission of Shahu Maharaj, he had come to Pachad to capture Raigad<sup>58</sup>. Pratinidhi did not speak his mind about Raigad. Pratinidhi arrived at Pachad in the beginning of June 1733 and he was given the leadership and job of conquering Raigad by any means. The Peshwa had sent a force of 800 to Raigad<sup>59</sup>. The place was too strong for the small Maratha force operating against it. The Killedar agreed to

surrender the fort to the Marathas on a promise of a good sum. Shahu Maharaj despatched a sum with 200 Maratha troops. Hearing about the deal and arrival of money, the Sidis plundered the treasure that was being carried to Raigad for the payment to the Killedar<sup>60</sup>. Pratinidhi who was in league with Yashwantrao Potnis had Shahu Maharaj's explicit orders to capture Raigad<sup>61</sup>. By making fresh overtures to the Killedar, Pratinidhi took possession of Raigad on 8.6.1733<sup>62</sup>. This was highly admired and their efforts were thus recognised.

The capture of Raigad was hailed at Satara as a great explicit success for Pratinidhi. Warm praises from Shahu Maharaj and the entire court were showered on him. From Raigad the Pratinidhi had been directed by Maharaj Shahu to march towards Anjanwel, the Sidi's stronghold in the south. Any attempt against Anjanwel, without first reducing Gowalkot, left the rear of the invading force open to attack. Sidi Sat was the commander of Gowalkot. Gowalkot had assumed special importance on account of its vicinity to the holy shrine of Parshuram, a place sanctified by its association with Brahmendra Swami. It was the duty of the Maratha force to free Parshuram from the persecution and humiliation it had suffered from the Sidi earlier. The Pratinidhi marched from Chiplun (of which Gowalkot was the port) exhorting Angre's officers to operate with him<sup>63</sup>. The Angre's officers to Diwan Rahunath Nair and Bakaji Naik Mahadik were helping the siege of Gowalkot with a force of 1500 troops<sup>64</sup> a severe fighting started which was witnessed by the

Pratinidhi who hoped to win the battle and put one more feather in his cap with the co-operation of Angre's force. But the intrigues set on foot by the Peshwa vitiated the whole situation. Regarding action at Anjanwel, the Peshwa Bajirao suggested Sekhoji that it should be taken after rainy season when the sailing of the fleet into the water and the movements of the military force by land would be done smoothly. Sekhoji agreed to Bajirao's plan of preventing the Pratinidhi from going against Anjanwel<sup>65</sup>. The Peshwa proposed to Sekhoji three alternatives for prosecuting the Konkan campaign. Sekhoji thereupon requested the Peshwa Bajirao to take the command of the force in a letter dated 21.6.1733 as follows :

"Unless the sole charge of the campaign is given to one single Commander with full control, you will be unsuccessful. You must take the full responsibility on yourself with me at your side to serve and assist you, what is impossible of attainment. It is immaterial whether the war lasts for one year or two or whether it costs one lac or ten and whether the British, the Portuguese and the Mughal officials at Surat render naval succor to the Sidi. With all these dangers we confidently cope, provided you take the lead personally"<sup>66</sup>. Pratinidhi's advance in the Anjanwel quarter was looked on with disfavour by Sekhoji Angre. His views were encouraged by the Peshwa so Sekhoji approved the proposal of the Peshwa in not allowing Pratinidhi to have any share in the capture of Anjanwel. He took a decision of not sending any assistance to Pratinidhi. Thereupon the Peshwa also sent secret agents to the Sidi and Mahadik made it clear to Pratinidhi that he alone would persecute



siege at Gowalkot and encourage him to fight and that the Pratinidhi should proceed against Anjanwel<sup>67</sup>.

Pratinidhi did not agree to Mahadik's plan and insisted in joint action against both the places and occupying them in the name of Shahu Maharaj. Mahadik, therefore, left the scene according to the instructions of his master and marched back with his troops to Suvarnadurg<sup>68</sup>. Now Sidi Sat of Gowalkot came to know the differences among the Maratha Generals and decided to take advantage of them. The Pratinidhi when arrived at Chiplun met Sidi Sat who showed his anxiousness to take Maharaja's service by surrendering the two places (Gowalkot and Rajapuri) by negotiations. As the Pratinidhi had succeeded at Raigad, he thought, he would do the same with Gowalkot. The Sidi's preliminary condition for starting negotiations was that the Angre's force should be withdrawn from its threatening position. Pratinidhi at once ordered Mahadik Angre's commander to give up the siege. When done Sidi Sat played a successful game and kept Pratinidhi busy under prolonged negotiations and free delivery of the place after four months thereby making it plain that he was marking his time<sup>69</sup>.

In the meantime the monsoon started with fury making all way like operations impossible. Pratinidhi soon realized that he had been outwitted by the Sidi and started preparations for laying siege to the fort. Sidi sought the help of European Nations.

The four months of the inoperative season proved a welcome respite for the Sidi. He made urgent appeals to the English to the

Portuguese and his colleagues at Surat and even to Niazm ul Mulk and to the Emperor of Delhi for help.

To ward off Maratha attack and to check the growth of Maratha power at Underi which was situated in the neighbourhood of Bombay harbour the Bombay government decided to capture Underi fortress by hoisting their flag on it. Accordingly they did. The Sidi wanted to take the possession of it. The English declared themselves ready to restore the fortress of Underi to the city provided the latter was willing to repay all the expenses incurred by the British Company. The English took measures to fortify the fortress for defending against the possible attack of the Marathas.

Bajirao also predicted that the Sidis, would get help from the English and the Mughals<sup>70</sup>. So when besieging Rajpuri Bajirao at first wrote in the name of the Raja of Satara to the President and the Council at Bombay that he would not permit the English fleet to interfere with his operations.

While the Sidi demanded aid from the English against Maharaj Shahu and Sekhoji, Maharaj Shahu sent envoys to the President complaining about the misbehaviour of the Sidi of Danda Rajapuri. The envoys complained that by force of arms the Sidis had possessed themselves of several ports in Raja Shahu's possession and in order to regain them, an army had been sent under the command of Fattesingh Bhosale<sup>71</sup>. The Maratha envoys convinced the English that Maharaj Shahu's intention was to make himself master of all the seaports and fortresses which were formerly in the possession



of the Sidi<sup>72</sup>. This shows the clear sign of the growing importance of the English at Bombay. The two letters written in the first week of June 1733 speak of the English at Bombay helping the Sidi and of naval help coming from Surat<sup>73</sup>. Sekhoji Angre informed Bajirao on 21.8.1733 how the British navy of Bombay was giving help to the Sidi<sup>74</sup>.

Sekhoji had recently captured an English ship called the "Rose", which he held to ransom for 7603 rupees which was paid by the English<sup>75</sup>. In the Board's meeting of 13th July 1733, the president of the English company at Bombay observed that "the combined arms of Maharaja Shahu and the Angre got the possession of town of Rajapur and a sort of fortress called Cocree (Kassa) with all the Sidis fleet of Ghurabs and Gallivats, their guns and warlike stores and nothing but the fort upon the island in that harbour holds out against them"<sup>76</sup>. The Marathas also made a violent attack on Janjira both on land and on sea.

On 16th July, 1733, Sekhoji wrote to Peshwa Bajirao of the rumour that the Sidis had handed over Underi to the English in return for their help against the Marathas<sup>77</sup>. This rumour came true. Ballal and Gangadhar Kasi were already negotiating with the English on behalf of Sekhoji Angre and trying to secure their neutrality, but to no effect<sup>78</sup>. In a letter to the Peshwa Bajirao Sekhoji Angre on 20th July, 1733 referred to the combination of the English, the Portuguese and the Sidis. He mentioned their proposed plan of attack on the Marathas. The Portuguese were to attack on Cheul and the

English at Kolaba. This could compel Sekhoji to recall his troops engaged at Anjanwel and Janjira. The combined forces were to attack Rajapuri<sup>79</sup>. Sekhoji Angre suggested to Bajirao to call help from Shahu Maharaj. He wished that the combined fleets of Kolaba and Vijaydurg would raise the siege of Kolaba and attack on Bombay which would be short of troops<sup>80</sup>.

The predominant position of the Marathas thus upset the balance of power in the Konkan. This awakened the English to a sense of danger, for they had already suffered at the hands of the Angre and now if his power was the supreme in the Konkan it would be bad for their safety<sup>81</sup>. Therefore, they decided to capture Underi which is nearest to Bombay<sup>82</sup>. The English directed their battleship called "MARY" under the command of James Inchbird<sup>83</sup>. With a force to aid the Sidi in defending his island of Underi, the ship arrived off Underi on the 16th July 1733 and on getting down on the island hoisted the English flag under the cover of the artillery of the fort and the gallivats. The nearby island Khanderi was under the charge of the Angre. On seeing the British flag flying on Underi, the Angre continued firing briskly his batteries at Underi from Khanderi and Thal. But as no damage was done, there was no occasion to continue there further<sup>84</sup>. On the 18th July, gallivats and boats returned to Bombay with the families of the garrison<sup>85</sup>.

Sekhoji Angre was anxious about an alliance of the English and the Sidis against him and therefore suspended the shell-fire against Underi<sup>86</sup> and sent messengers to the English for negotiations.

In a letter dated 4th August 1733, Sekhoji Angre informed the Peshwa of the progress of the negotiations. The English insisted that they should be permitted not to possess Dastak of the Angre<sup>87</sup>.

In the meantime, the English were asked by Shah-Shamuddaula an Officer of the Mughal Emperor that along with the Portuguese they should help the Sidis against the Marathas. The English replied that they would be glad to do so and hoped that the Mughal Emperor would pay the expenses incurred by the English<sup>88</sup>.

The Maratha army had reduced the power of the Sidis to a great extent. The Sidis were paid an annual Jagir of three lacs of rupees by the Mughal government for the protection of their trade at Surat. As the Sidis were not powerful enough to protect the Mughal trade, the English thought of acquiring the Jagir by making overtures to Tegheg Khan and undertaking the responsibility of protecting the Mughal trade<sup>89</sup>. The English at Bombay rejoiced when the Governor of Surat proposed that he would secure the necessary Firman from the Mughal Emperor in the name of the English<sup>90</sup>.

Sekhoji Angre was quite alert and he informed the Mughals that instead of giving Jagir to the Sidis, who were already broken, it should be given to him, so that he will take care to protect the trade of this post against all enemies and then concluded that he expected an immediate answer, that he may concert his measures accordingly<sup>91</sup>.

It is already said that after the capture of Raigad, Pratinidhi moved towards Gowalkot and Anjanwel. A small force of Sekhoji



Angre under Diwan Raghunath Hari and Bakaji Naik Mahadik was operating against the Sidi. Before the end of May 1733, they had wrested Mandangad from the hands of the Sidis<sup>92</sup>. On 6th July 1733 Bakaji Naik Mahadik assaulted and captured Vijaygad<sup>93</sup>.

On his way to Anjanwel from Suvarnadurg, Bakaji Naik Mahadik learnt that Sidi Sat again intended to desecrate shrine of Parshuram. Bakaji Naik Mahadik advanced to Gowalkot. Sidi Sat with 1200-1500 soldiers attacked the Marathas. Outnumbered by the Sidis the Marathas were on the verge of defeat. However, Bakaji Naik rallied his forces and repelled the enemy vigorously. The Sidi forces ran away<sup>94</sup>.

On 30th July, Pratinidhi received reinforcements from Vishalgad<sup>95</sup>. On the very day, Gangadhar Pant, brother of Pratinidhi attacked a Sidi outpost. The Sidi took refuge in the fort. So Pratinidhi ordered an assault on the fort. The result was that the Sidi repulsed the attack though with heavy losses. Thus, Pratinidhi was defeated by the Sidi<sup>96</sup>. Pratinidhi complained against the attitude of the Peshwa and the Angre to Maharaj Shahu<sup>97</sup>. Thereafter the Sidi attacked the outpost occupied by the Pratinidhi. The Marathas were defeated and abandoned the outpost<sup>98</sup>.

Pratinidhi contacted Sambhaji Angre for the help of his fleet. But, as Sambhaji was already instructed by Sekhoji not to help Pratinidhi, under the instructions from the Peshwa, Sambhaji refused to help him<sup>99</sup>.

On 13th July, the English also decided to send a help to Sidis of one Lieutenant, two Engineers, four sergeants, 4 Corporals, forty European Musquetuers, and sixty topasses, six nine-pounder, six six-pounders, sixty barrels of powder, one hundred spare musquetuers and sundry other stores<sup>100</sup>. This was against the promise, they gave to the Angre's envoy Babaji Balal, who was deputed to Bombay<sup>101</sup>. At that time the Peshwa Bajirao to get the information of the English help to the Sidi, therefore in August, he wrote to Shahu Maharaj thus, "The Sidi is not an ordinary enemy; you know how often in the past, heroic attempts to humble him have failed. A tremendous effort is necessary; if he is to be finally overcome. Without a complete naval blockade combined with carefully arranged operations by land, it is not possible to overcome him. This means, enormous expenditure of money, which is not available. We need, at least fifteen thousand expert footmen for an effort of this kind, working through a period of at least two years. Janjira is receiving support from Anjanvel and Underi; these places must be secured; before an attack on his principal stronghold. We have already exhausted all our money and resources so that unless you send us ample funds at once, we cannot make any movement. we are putting forth our utmost efforts, but that is not enough. The Sidis are getting help from Surat and Bombay also. Pratinidhi has not come to Rajapuri. I await further orders"<sup>102</sup>.

From the Peshwa Bajirao's letter, we note that he was aware of the strong, utmost invincible position of the Sidi<sup>103</sup>.

Had Shahu Maharaj left this matter to Bajirao by giving supreme command and not guiding and making and remaking appointments of the Military Commanders from a distant place like Satara, the result would have been different. There was neither uniformity of policy, nor organised strategy. Perhaps because of this the Peshwa Bajirao was in favour of a settlement with the Sidis.

In June 1733, the Peshwa Bajirao came to know that the Nizam had sent robes of honour to Sidi Sat and the English at Bombay<sup>104</sup> on request from the Sidi for help<sup>105</sup>. The Peshwa Bajirao also came to know from Sekhoji Angre the details of the Portuguese succor to the Sidis<sup>106</sup>. So the Peshwa Bajirao addressed a detailed letter to Shahu Maharaj informing him the combination of the enemies to defeat the Marathas and suggesting a peace treaty with the Sidi through the mediation of the Nizam<sup>107</sup>. A short time after this, letter written, Sekhoji Angre died at Alibag on 28th August 1733.

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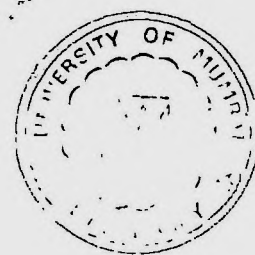


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The Sidis should hand over Anjanvel and Underi to the Marathas. They should allow to retain Janjira and Padmadurga - suggests Bajirao I.





## CHAPTER IV

### SAMBHAJI AND MANAJI CRIPPLED SIDIS POWER ANGRE'S FRATERNAL DISPUTES

Sekhoji Angre died at Alibag on 28th August 1733<sup>1</sup>. After the death of Sekhoji, he was succeeded by his brother, Sambhaji, who on choosing to stay at Suvarnadurg with his half-brother Tulaji, appointed his half brother Yesaji to the civil charge and Manaji to the naval and military command of Kolaba. All these brothers were self-willed, obstinate youths, who quarrelled violently among themselves and invited outside intervention<sup>2</sup>.

Shortly after the above mentioned arrangement, Manaji quarrelled with his brothers Sambhaji and Yesaji and unable to stand against his brother's superior force, took shelter with the Portuguese at lower Cheul or Revdanda. Before long Manaji left Revadanda and brought together a few followers. He gave a surprise siege to the fort of Kolaba. In this endeavour, Manaji also opened negotiations with the English to support his claim against his brothers. The English naturally welcomed the opportunity of weakening the Angres and dispatched Capt. Inchbird to Cheul in December 1734, to encourage Manaji in his evil designs. It was very advantageous to the Portuguese and the English to keep up the dissensions between the brothers and thereby divide their force. They therefore authorised their agent to offer Manaji, money and military stores and instructed the agent to spirit up Manaji to carry on his resentment against his brothers<sup>3</sup>.



Manaji Angre's agent also met Peshwa Bajirao, whom Sambhaji had greatly offended by declining to meet him at Rajapuri for personal discussions<sup>4</sup>. The Peshwa saw in the family discord; an opportunity to humiliate his opponent, reduce the Angre power and make it subservient to his authority. On seizing the fort of Kolaba, Manaji became the undisputed master of Kolaba and with the help of the Peshwa, defeated Yesaji and made him a prisoner. He was confined at Poynad and then at Alibag. From Alibag, Yesaji escaped and went to the Peshwa, who decided that he had no claim on Kolaba and warned Yesaji not to break the peace again. Also settled the matter at ten Khandis of rice and amount of Rs. 400 on him and sent him to Revdanda<sup>5</sup>. Thereafter, the Peshwa decided that the fleet and territories of Kanhoji Angre should be divided between his protege Manaji and Sambhaji; that Manaji should hold independent charge of Kolaba<sup>6</sup> and Sambhaji that of Suvarnadurg. The arrangement ousted Sambhaji permanently from his northern possessions and confined him to his barren tract of the Ratnagiri district. Sambhaji retained his father's title of Sarkhel, but it no longer stood for the supreme command of the navy. Sambhaji naturally resented this decision and was never reconciled to the partition<sup>7</sup>. As the Bombay government could not allow Manaji to establish his power in the Bombay harbour, four cruisers were sent against him, but from discord among the British commanders, the whole of Angre's fleet except one grab was allowed to escape<sup>8</sup>. Manaji seized some vessels and established him at Revas on the Pen river. As the more daring and active among the brothers,

Sambhaji's removal from the vicinity of Bombay gave satisfaction to the English. They had all these years, meekly submitted to the insults by the Angre and were now happy at the turn of events. They accepted Manaji as lesser of the two evils and readily assisted him to keep the feud alive. The Peshwa had humbled not only the pride of the Angre's house but had the Angre's fief in his grip. A new English-Peshwa-Manaji axis was established to enable them to keep Sambhaji Angre away from Kolaba<sup>9</sup>. The British also joined Sidi in alliance against the Angre. They agreed that all prizes made at sea should be given to the English and all prizes made on land to the Sidi; that if Khanderi was taken, it should be handed to the English, that the fort of Kolaba should be demolished, and that the revenues of Kolaba were to be equally divided between the Sidi and the British<sup>10</sup>. In 1736, Sambhaji from Vijayadurg captured the richly laden English ship Derly, the armed ship Restoration and several other smaller vessels<sup>11</sup>.

Now let us, describe how Manaji and Sambhaji crippled Sidi's power with the help of the Peshwa.

### **MANAJI AND SAMBHAJI CRIPPLED SIDI'S POWER**

Sekhoji Angre died at Alibag on 28th August 1733. This had affected adversely the Peshwa's plan of campaign in the Konkan. On the death of Sekhoji, Sambhaji his brother left Vijayadurg and came to Kolaba and took up the command of the fleet. His relations with the Peshwa were not friendly. Between Sekhoji and Sambhaji, there was a long standing feud. As Bajirao had supported Sekhoji,

Sambhaji started giving scant respect to the Peshwa's orders. When Sambhaji took command of the Kolaba fleet, the Peshwa asked him to meet at Rajpuri for personal discussion. Sambhaji declined to meet the Peshwa.

Shahu Maharaj learnt Nizam's intrigues in favour of the Sidi, therefore he asked Chimaji Appa to stay at Poona to keep an eye on the Nizam's movements. Intelligence received from Surat was that, Sidi Masud had decided to join the Sidi of Janjira. Shahu Maharaj ordered Umabai Dabhade Gaikwad of Gujarat to check Nizam's progress but they did not make any due to their relation with Bajirao.

To add to this, in September 1733, the British despatched another squadron for the help of the Sidi. The consequence was that the command of the sea passed into the hands of the Sidi and the English entered into an alliance, against the Marathas<sup>12</sup>. Thereafter, the English fleet took menacing position at the Rajapuri creek<sup>13</sup>. The Peshwa now realised the hopelessness of the situation. He wrote to Shahu Maharaj at Satara, how the Marathas failed to win the war and suggested that Shahu Maharaj should make approaches to the Sidi for peace<sup>14</sup>. Shahu agreed to Bajirao's proposal and asked the Peshwa to lean from the English to the Sidis terms and deputed his envoy Anandrao Sumant to the Sidi for direct negotiations. The envoy left Satara for Rajapuri on his mission for peace on 4th November 1733<sup>15</sup>. In December, a treaty was concluded, near Alibag, according to which, Bajirao recognised

Abdul Rahman as the chief of Janjira. According to the treaty, the Peshwa Bajirao retained Raigad and Mahad and five and a half Mahals of the Sidi; and restored the rest to him<sup>16</sup>. He also agreed not to claim beyond what was in actual possession of the Marathas<sup>17</sup>. The Peshwa Bajirao returned to Satara on 11th December 1733<sup>18</sup>.

For a naval battle on the sea, Sekhoji was the right hand man of the Peshwa Bajirao I, as he was not accustomed to naval warfare.

In this campaign of 1733, Sekhoji could not supplement the military power of the Peshwa Bajirao with naval help. But the fault was not his. The campaign started hardly a month before the rainy season. The western sea is not navigable for the gallivats during the early monsoons. Hence, Sekhoji was unable to help the Peshwa.

In Sekhoji, the Marathas lost a gallant admiral, proved himself a worthy son of a worthy father.

While the negotiations were going on Sidi Sat attempted to land men and attack Bankot, but it was frustrated<sup>19</sup>. However the Sidi of Underi captured Thal on 12th November 1733<sup>20</sup>. In one of the skirmishes Sidi Yarkhar was killed by Manaji Angre<sup>21</sup>.

### **CHIMAJI APPA'S ENCOUNTER WITH SIDI SAT**

The agreement was concluded by Chiamji Appa who was on the scene since October 1733. Although the agreement was concluded, it seems from the subsequent events that the Sidis never meant to observe it.



As already said, the English also concluded a treaty with the Sidi on 6th December, 1733, a week after the Marathas nominee Abdul Rahman sitting on the Mansad of Janjira. This treaty was mainly against the Angres.

After the Peshwa Bajirao's return to the capital, the Sidis attacked Bankot and captured it<sup>22</sup>.

The forces of the Angres who were guarding the outpost escaped to Suvarnadurg. The Sidis moved further and captured Mahad<sup>23</sup>.

The news of attacks of the Sidis on the Maratha outposts alarmed Maharaj Shahu<sup>24</sup>. He ordered his Peshwa to despatch forces at Konkan at once to help the garrison of Raigad<sup>25</sup>. The Maratha forces halted at Poladpur on 5th January 1734. Baji Bhivrao Reterekar, Maratha Commandant reached Chhatri Nizampur with his forces on 9th January 1734.

Sidi Amber Afwani fought valiantly with Maratha forces into three units, one under Baji Bhivrao, the second under Huzarat and the third under Pawar. At about day break, the battle ensued<sup>26</sup>. The Marathas captured Wadi and Pachad on the same day. Most of the Sidis men were killed in the battle field. Udaji Pawar rushed with his forces in the battle against the Sidis and severed Sidi Amber Afwani's head<sup>27</sup>. Thereafter the head was carried away by the Marathas. The palanquin of the Sidi Amber Afwani fell in the Maratha hands. Krishnaji Khatavkar<sup>28</sup> and Javaji Lad<sup>29</sup>, the Sarnobat of Raigad were killed, the Sidis then fled to Mahad.

In a detailed letter to the Nizam, Maharaj Shahu informed him the Sidi's defeat at Raigad, "The Sidi's forces took possession of Mahad and Pachad and thereafter blockaded Raigad. On hearing this news, Udaji Pawar to whom this campaign was assigned marched against the Sidis. In the battle, Sidi Amber Afwani was killed and beheaded. Later Udaji Pawar captured Pachad"<sup>30</sup>.

After the defeat of Sidi's forces at Raigad, the Marathas planned an attack on Mahad<sup>31</sup> which was held by Sidi Sat. The Maratha forces marched against Anjanvel and Gowalkot<sup>32</sup>. Simultaneously, Sambhaji Angre was also asked by Shahu Maharaj to help in the siege of Anjanwel and Govalkot.<sup>33</sup> As the Sidi returned to Bankot, the Marathas took possession of Mahad on 24th February 1734<sup>34</sup>.

The Marathas pursued the Sidis, assaulted and captured Bankot on 8th March 1734<sup>35</sup>. Baji Bhivrao took a prominent part in the action which was described by Maharaj Shahu in a letter to the Nizam-U-Mulk as follows :

"As soon as the army of Udaji Pawar arrived after him (Sidi), he exerted himself for five days and storming the fort from all sides, the sepoys carried it. The inhabitants fearful of their lives fled on board the gallivats, ghurabs, boores which were anchors and apparatus, many of which sank due to excess weight and many people were killed and of whom there did not remain a single sign. Udaji Pawar having taken a large army is pursuing Seelee Sad by land wherever that ill-fortuned may go, there he will follow<sup>36</sup>.

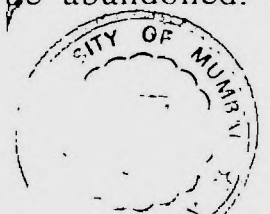
As soon as Baji Bhivrao took charge of the Bankot fort, the Killedar Ravji Sedgar ran away, so Baji Bhivrao requested the Peshwa Bajirao to appoint another Killedar<sup>37</sup>. At once he undertook repairs and construction work of fort Bankot<sup>38</sup>. In this expedition the Peshwa's forces were under Baji Bhivrao and Mankar, and the Huzur troops were under the command of the four captians Hari Moreshwar Rajadaya, Shaikh Mira, Lingoji Hawaldar and Deorao Meghashyam, the Daroga of the artillery. They were asked to aid Pratinidhi and Sambhaji Angre in the task<sup>39</sup>. The Maharaj had retained direction of this expedition with him by sitting at Satara and ordering the Pratinidhi and Sambhaji Angre to take charge of the expedition in the absence of the Peshwa Bajirao who had returned to Satara. The Maratha forces, sent under the different captains as mentioned above , had no single master to command. Bajirao's forces, under the command of Baji Bhivrao, were getting orders from the Peshwa Bajirao and his brother Chimaji Appa<sup>40</sup>. Whereas the other Maratha forces of Huzurat were receiving orders from the Maharaj and the Pratinidhi.

Sid Sat began using the old tactics that had reduced the Pratindihi's strength and forced him to abandon the siege. As the Pratinidhi had laid siege to Gowalkot, Baji Bhivrao expressed his intention of invading Anjanvel<sup>41</sup>. But he received orders from the Maharaj to help in the siege of Gowalkot<sup>42</sup>. Therefore, he expressed his unwillingness to proceed to Gowalkot owing to sickness raging in his camps reported by him to the Peshwa<sup>43</sup>. Here Baji Bhivrao,



who was under Peshwa's command, was receiving orders from the Maharaj to proceed to Gowalkot, but he was trying to put it off on some pretext or the other<sup>44</sup>. After explaining his above mentioned role Baji Bhivrao requested advice from Bajirao as to what he should do<sup>45</sup> and what answers he should give to the Maharaj despatches asking him to proceed to Gowalkot<sup>46</sup>.

So, the things at Gowalkot and at Anjanwel started drifting. They could not prosper according to the plan. So the Maharaj deputed Jivaji Khanderao Chitnis in Konkan. He reached Anjanvel on 1st April 1734 and was joined by a strong force of Sambhaji Angre<sup>47</sup>. From Anjanwel, Chitnis communicated to the Peshwa the plans of Sambhaji Angre about a naval attack on Anjanwel<sup>48</sup>. In the meantime, Sonji Bhapkar and the Angre's men, who had taken position in the Natha creek, were attacked by Sidi Sat in which the Marathas sustained several casualties<sup>49</sup>. However the progress of the siege of Anjanvel by the joint forces of the Angre and the Maharaj continued<sup>50</sup> ( 10.4.1734 ). While the siege was continued, Sambhaji received robes of Sarkhelship\* and a present of elephant sent by Maharaj at Jaygad<sup>51</sup>. Thereupon they renewed the attack on Anjanwel. Jivaji Khanderao Chitnis led the attack on land side and Sambhaji Angre from the sea<sup>52</sup>. But the attack could not be renewed on the next day as Sambhaji had to retire to Vijayadurg owing to heavy gale on the sea<sup>53</sup>. Thus the possibility of developing a simultaneous attack from land and water had to be abandoned.



The remaining force of the Angre, opened a cannonade against two important bastions of the fort. Sidi Sat, secure within the walls, replied to the Maratha guns with superior artillery lent by the English. It took a toll of Baburao Vaidya, the Maratha captain<sup>54</sup>. The Maratha force became helpless as Sambhaji Angre stayed away at Vijayadurg at this time<sup>55</sup>. Disgusted with the stalemate Baji Bhivrao, Peshwa's Sardar showed his unwillingness to remain in the Konkan and requested the Peshwa Bajirao to call him back<sup>56</sup>. Although Baji Bhivrao took measures to protect the forts Bankot and Pankot as skirmish with the Sidi's men ensued near Bankot in which the enemy was repulsed by the Marathas<sup>57</sup>. Baji Bhivrao was reporting to the Peshwa Bajirao the difficulties of the campaign and details of fight before Gowalkot. It was very difficult to hold on against the enemy's onslaught unless funds and provisions were quickly supplied from Satara by the Maharaj<sup>58</sup>.

In the middle of May 1734, Maharaj Shahu made changes in the command of Gowalkot. He deputed Krishna Dabhade and Sambhaji Berge to Konkan who arrived in Konkan in the middle of May 1734. Udaji Pawar was asked to canton near Gowalkot during the monsoon<sup>59</sup>. Although Maharaj Shahu was enthusiastic about the Konkan campaign due to dissensions among the Maratha sardars, some had left Anjanwel and Gowalkot inspite Shahu Maharaj's strict orders to them to remain there.<sup>60</sup> Having learned about dissensions in the Dabhade family, Maharaj Shahu felt sorry for having recalled the Peshwa Bajirao from the Konkan campaign<sup>61</sup>. Chitnis and Shahu Maharaj's sardars called fresh reinforcements from



Satara in the hope of assaulting the place, but the reinforcements never came<sup>62</sup>. Due to long and weary hot days in the month of May, most of the besieging forces from Konkan returned to capital<sup>63</sup>, leaving the chances of a Maratha victory very remote. So Chitnis raised the siege and came back to Satara in June' 34.

In the rainy season of 1734, Brahmendra Swami came to the Konkan. Thereupon all his disciples, including the Angre brothers went to see him. The Swami took an insult of Sambhaji's misbehaviour and cursed him.

After the departure of Bajirao to Satara, Sambhaji Angre laid siege to the fort of Anjanwel. Because of stiff resistance from the Sidi he soon came to know that the siege would last for a pretty long time so he paid his attention to the domestic affairs. Sambhaji Angre asked his brother Dondaji and Manaji to conduct the affairs at Kolaba. Manaji was also given command of the naval force at Kolaba<sup>64</sup>.

This arrangement continued for four months. Thereafter clashes between the two brothers came to the fore. Sambhaji relieved Dhondiji of the charge of Kolaba affairs. He wanted to do away with Manaji who he suspected as partisan of the Peshwa and Brahmendra Swami. When Manaji suspected treacherous behaviour of his brother Sambhaji towards him, he ran away from Kolaba and took refuge with the Portuguese at Revdanda. After Manaji's escape at Kolaba, Sambhaji went towards Vijayadurg. In the meantime with the help of the Portuguese, Manaji captured Kolaba by force. This

news gave shock to Sambhaji who forcefully came back with his naval force and attacked Manaji<sup>65</sup>.

Manaji got assistance from the Peshwa to whom he yielded the fort of Kothigad and Rajmachi and repulsed Sambhaji<sup>66</sup>. Because of Sambhaji's hectic behaviour he became unpopular with Bajirao, Brahmendraswami and Shahu Maharaj. Bajirao got annoyed with Sambhaji as the latter could not capture Ajanwel, a job which was assigned to him by Bajirao before his departure to the Konkan. In the rainy season of 1734, when the Swami came to Konkan, Sambhaji forcibly took away from him his Kambal, gun and his flag which irritated the Swami<sup>67</sup>. The king got very much displeased with Sambhaji. Because of his quarrel with his brother, Sambhaji had lost hillock fortress of Thal to the Sidi. Besides the English at Bombay were dreaden with the naval force of Sambhaji.

They wanted that the war between two brothers should continue to weaken their strength. They immediately took up Manaji's cause. The fort Anjanwel and Gowalkot were still to be captured from the Sidis. Due to East India Company's naval help to the Sidi, the work of capturing the above mentioned two forts remained lingering. Therefore when Manaji requested the Peshwa for the help against Sambhaji, the Maharaj asked Bajirao to go to Konkan to settle the quarrel of the Angre brothers and to capture the two forts. Manaji before the arrival of the Peshwa in the Konkan captured fort Anjanwel<sup>68</sup>.

Bajirao arrived in Konkan in February 1735. In the meantime Maharaj Shahu was requested to enable him to equip his fleet to fight against the Sidi who had already landed near Kelsi<sup>69</sup>. Bajirao who had asked his men to carry “Phatakadi gun” in Konkan, was informed that with great difficulties it was carried upto Nagothane. Bajirao was also asked to be very cautious as he was hemmed between the Sidi on one hand and the Portuguese on the other. For the Konkan expedition also, Bajirao was in need of money. Therefore he deputed his agent at Bombay to try to recover loan from one Krishnaji Ram whom the British were protecting<sup>70</sup>.

However Krishnaji Ram refused to listen to Bajirao which was reported to the Peshwa.<sup>71</sup> With all difficulties explained above Bajirao started his drive forcefully and from February to April 1735, he helped Manaji to capture the forts Rajmachi, Khanderi and Kolaba. The Peshwa called the two brothers together at Navadare near Alibag and forced Sambhaji to agree to a peace treaty between the two brothers. Sambhaji was to remain content with his southern possession of Vijayadurg. He was also given Sarkhel. A title Vajarat Mab was bestowed on Manaji who was given Kolaba in his possession. From April 1735, the Marathas laid siege to Gowalkot which continued for 1½ years. In August 1735 Suryaji Chawan was deputed to help the Marathas to finish the capture of Gowalkot<sup>72</sup>.

Earlier in April 1735 Sarkhel Sambhaji was asked by the Maharaj to prosecute the siege of Gowalkot vigorously. So the Sarkhel ordered his commandant Bawaji Mhaske to march towards

Gowalkot. After reaching Gowalkot on April 4, 1735 the commandant wrote to the Maharaj explaining the difficulties of his situation and requested him to send more men and guns<sup>74</sup>. The contents of these letters were reported to the Peshwa from Satara by his son Nanasaheb<sup>75</sup>. The situation in Konkan was so precarious that seasoned Maratha commandant Santaji Jadhav informed the king the heavy strain and expenses he had sustained during 13 months of fighting and requested to be relieved within eight days<sup>76</sup>. The Sidi took advantage of the deteriorating condition of the Maratha camp and in the month of June 1735 had started creating disturbances in the Maratha territory<sup>77</sup>. But the heavy monsoon that set in June put a stop to the military activities and caused a general sickness away the Marathas.

But in September 1735 the Marathas renewed the siege of the Kasibandar from where the progress of fighting in Janjira was reported to the Peshwa<sup>78</sup>. In the meantime the Maharaj got help of two thousand force from the Nizam which was directed in Konkan<sup>79</sup>. The forces were admitted in the Karnala fort by the orders of the Maharaj<sup>80</sup>.

In April 1735 Sidi Sat got secret information of probable attack by Sambhaji Angre on the forts of Gowalkot and by land Anjanwel by blockading with his fleet. He therefore requested the British company to send help off the port of Ajanwel to protect those forts from the enemy's attempts by sea. The English rose to the occasion and despatched a powerful fleet against the Angrian



coast line<sup>81</sup>. Sidi Sat made a similar request to the Portuguese whose vessels joined the British fleet. On seeing the combined squadron cruising off Anjanwel, Sambhaji Angre got frightened and he called back his commandant Bawaji Mhaske who was stationed in front of Gowalkot<sup>82</sup>.

Another reason for Mhaske's withdrawal was that the Kolhapur Raja and Bhagwantrao Ramchandra of Bawada started depredations in the adjoining territory of the Angre. The Maharaj who was informed of this had issued warning to Sambhaji of Kolhapur and the chief of Bawada to refrain from such activities, but this had no effect. The Huzur force sent in the Konkan was also lacking the understanding of military strategy and was incapable of carrying the assault on the fort<sup>83</sup>. Maske already got disgusted with the manner in which the siege was conducted, therefore he found recall orders from Sambhaji as an excuse and when the alarm was raised by the approach of enemy, he destroyed his batteries and broke up his camp and went away at a distance of 2 to 3 cos. with his guns. He was reconciled by the commandants of Huzurat, but he told them his master's orders and refused to return<sup>84</sup>.

However commandant of Huzurat succeeded in persuading Mhaske to stay in the camp. Santaji Jadhav and Dhurgoji Bhoite, the commandants of the Huzurat objected Mhaske's carrying away the cannons without the permission of the higher authorities. Therefore Mhaske halted at 2 or 3 cos. from the camp but did not return. It was afterwards understood that Bhagwantrao and Sambhaji



of Kolhapur were instigated by the Sidi to ravage the territory of the Angre<sup>85</sup>. Action of withdrawal by Sambhaji created panic among the Huzurat force. They fell back on Chiplun and requested the Maharaj to recall them at Satara. On November 9th Sidi Sat came before Gowalkot carrying 22 ships and 2500 force and marked the occasion with discharge of gun<sup>86</sup>. He also came down heavily on the coastal hemlets belonging to the Angre burning and pillaging them as he desired<sup>87</sup>. It was also reported that the Sidi had effected an alliance with the Dutch who used to bring goods from Surat for sale at Janjira<sup>88</sup>. Even then Sambhaji Angre left Kolaba with his fleet for going to Suvarnadurg. But at Shriwardhan in the creek of Kelsi he had a skirmish with Sidi Sat in which he won the victory over Sidi Sat<sup>89</sup>. To finish off the campaign against the Sidi the Maharaj also decided to send more succour with Pilaji Jadhav to the seat of operation<sup>90</sup>. Sambhaji Angre had all along felt that his interest had been neglected by the Maharaj and the Peshwa and came to the decision of having peace with the Sidi Sat. When the Maharaj came to know that Sambhaji had proposed a peace treaty by offering Mandangad and Vijayagad to the Sidi, Maharaj Shahu had sent a severe warning to him against making any approaches of peace to Sidi<sup>91</sup>. When Pilaji Jadhav learnt that the king was intending him to go to the scene of operation at Gowalkot, he asked Chimaji Appa to impress upon the Maharaj that it was of no use sending him alone against the Sidi but that the Angre should be first compelled to be in the front in this undertaking<sup>92</sup>. But nothing prevented Sambhaji to conclude peace treaty with Sidi which he did by establishing

Chawki at Kelsi with the Sidi<sup>93</sup> in the last week of December 1735. It was also reported by the English that the Angre and the Khem Sawant came to terms<sup>94</sup>. In order to put an end to the quarrel between the two brothers Manaji and Sambhaji Angre, Maharaj Shahu issued orders appointing Manaji as a Governor of the district of Kolaba with full powers as his fathers and brothers had enjoyed, and at the same time , he ordered him to supply his brother Sambhaji with grain for the subsistence of his possessions to the southwards and in return Sambhaji was asked to deliver up to Manaji two Grabs that formerly belonged to the Kolaba fleet<sup>95</sup>. The Maharaj's order did not bring desired effect on Sambhaji Angre. He gave up the siege of Gowalkot and took away his material to Makhajan near Ratnagiri<sup>96</sup>. Now Sidi became aggressive, he seemed to have started preparation for the capture of the fort of Karnala<sup>97</sup>. Thereupon it was suggested to the Peshwa to depute his men to the Portuguese at Goa with a request for naval ships to join in the Konkan campaign against the Sidi, as the Portuguese were favourably inclined towards the Peshwa<sup>98</sup> at that time. However the Peshwa sent his Vakil to the English who pointed out to them how the help given by them to the Sidis should be treated as inimical act by the Marathas<sup>99</sup>.

The Angre's opposition having been nullified, Sidi Sat decided to capture vital posts belonging to the Marathas. He captured Bankot and demolished it. He also made depredations in the territory from Jaygad to Vijayadurg and burnt the land and pillaged the people. Lord Ganpati of Ganpati Pule was desecrated. None came to his

help and 6 to 7 elderly persons who were there were killed by him<sup>100</sup>.

In January 1736 the Sidi had skirmished with the Maratha forces in the Konkan. He captured Rewas fortress<sup>101</sup>. This news and the news regarding Bankot alarmed the Satara Darbar. The king immediately asked Chimaji Appa to send help in the Konkan. He also appointed Pilaji Jadhav to lead succour to fighting forces in the Konkan campaign. The Maharaj also ordered a small force of 500 to march under Yamaji Shivdeo to help to invoke a spirit among the Maratha force. He also asked Govindrao Chitnis and Bhaskar Vaidya to contact Sambhaji Angre and persuade him to join to resume the operations. He was also promised a reward of restoring Kolaba to him<sup>102</sup>.

Shahu Maharaj was very much interested in capturing Gowalkot as early as possible. It was his intention that Sambhaji should help the Huzurat in bringing the Gowalkot in Swarajya. But Sambhaji remained indifferent to this cause which the Maharaj did not like. Therefore he refused to accept the presents sent by Sambhaji to him in February 1736.

In the month of February, 1736, according to the Peshwa's orders, his commandant Pilaji Jadhav rushed in Konkan via Palghat to recapture Bankot from the Sidi<sup>103</sup>. The Sidi got frightened and instead of opposing the Maratha force, he, during the night time, quietly removed the stores and provisions and put them in the ships and slipped away by abandoning the place. The Marathas occupied

fort Bankot without opposition. Thereafter Pilaji Jadhav came back to Mahad and to transact the business of Mahad and Raigad, he halted near Goregaon with his force for two months. The Peshwa summoned him at Satara and assigned him work of capturing Gowalkot in the month of March 1736<sup>104</sup>.

He was given the force of 2000 for this task<sup>105</sup>. The Peshwa had asked him to act in concert with Chimaji Appa<sup>106</sup>. The Maratha came to know that the Sidi had captured the fortress of Rewas and was intending to push forward on the coast to grab more places belonging to the Marathas. It was imminent to stop his progress by opposing him. Therefore on 7th April 1736, Pilaji Jadhav started from Satara with his force and reached in vicinity of Gowalkot for erecting batteries<sup>107</sup>. He entrenched himself at the Dhamni point and in order to cut off Gowalkot from the outside world, he decided to stop completely the passage of vessels carrying provisions to the enemy for that purpose, he wanted help from Satara and Poona which did not arrive till 26th April 1736<sup>108</sup>.

In the meantime, the Sidi who got the help of the English and secret help of Sambhaji suddenly assaulted Rewas with the help of his fleet and killed the entire garrison. The Sidi had an eye on Angre's Kolaba which lay hardly within thirteen miles of Rewas in the straight line. Manaji Angre who was at Kolaba understood the evil designs of the Sidi and sent his column to oppose the Sidi's advance. At the same time Manaji wrote to Satara for immediate help. The Peshwa and his brother Chimaji Appa understood the



consequences of development at the Sidi's end. If the Sidi succeeded in capturing Kolaba from Manaji Angre, Sambhaji Angre would return to Kolaba, which the Peshwa and his brother were determined to prevent. Having gathered 2500 infantry and 800 cavalry in the capital of Satara<sup>109</sup>, Chimaji Appa left the capital on 13th and galloping appeared on the front near Charhai Kamarle on 18th April 1736. The Maratha succeeded in keeping the Sidi in the dark about the sudden development on his enemy's front<sup>110</sup>. The Sidi had a small infantry force. The Maratha horse marched forcefully on the enemy's infantry, facing the fire. At the beginning, the Maratha horse reeled and wavered for a time. But timely arrival of Manaji's and Appa's determination saved the situation. With a wild yell the Maratha horse rushed head long into the enemy columns, broke their lives and swept everything before it<sup>111</sup>. The small Sidi force found its position untenable. The Sidi had been caught by the Maratha force at a point where he could expect no immediate enforcement from any side. Nothing it seemed could save him and his force from total annihilation from the Maratha's fearless attack. However the dauntless Sidi Sat, his right hand, Sidi Yakut and Sambhaji Ghatge were slain, his force were annihilated and camp plundered. Thus the Sidi was completely destroyed after ten years of his constant harassment. This Maratha triumph was acclaimed as a material victory and it was celebrated by booming guns and beating of drums by the people in the capital<sup>112</sup>. The Maharaj became jubilant over the good news and his joy had no bounds. He at once announced various rewards to the persons who exhibited bravery in the battle,



to Chimaji Appa robes of honour, a sword, a medallion and shawl were given. Manaji was rewarded with robes of honour and a medal. The messengers from Manaji Angre who came with thrilling news of joy were rewarded with gold and silver bracelets respectively<sup>113</sup>. There was a happy talk of the Maharaj and the people of Satara admiring the wonderful feats of valour by Chimaji Appa. The Maharaj Shahu considered the Peshwa and his brother Chimaji Appa as the special favourites if deity Bhargavram as they achieved so many wonders. However the Peshwa's adversaries, the Pratinidhi, Narbawa and Yeshwantrao became sorry for the sudden end of Sidi Sat<sup>114</sup>. Pilaji Jadhav who was before Gowalkot sent congratulations to Chimaji Appa on his victory at Carhai Jivaji<sup>115</sup>. Jivaji Khanderao and other Maratha commandants like Malhar Dadaji Barve, Dwarkaji Patankar communicated to Chimaji Appa their hearty congratulations on the victory he obtained over Sidi Sat<sup>116</sup>. Chimaji Appa also sent news to Bajirao of Sidi having been killed in fight<sup>117</sup>, so also Bajirao received the news of Sidis fall from his confident Vasudeo Joshi who was working in the Janjira campaign<sup>118</sup>. Fattesingh Bhosle also congratulated Chimaji Appa on behalf of the Maharaj and himself on the victory, he obtained over Sidi Sat<sup>119</sup>.

### **GOWALKOT CAMPAIGN**

It is already stated that Pilaji Jadhav was encamping at Dhamnia village near Gowalkot. He was pressing the Maharaj and the Peshwa for more force and cannons and naval help from the Angres. It may be recollected that Sambhaji of Kolhapur had already

entered into a pact with the Sidi Sat for helping him against the Maharaj Shahu. Therefore in order to obtain Sambhaji's co-operation against the Sidi of Janjira, Shahu called Sambhaji for a personal meeting at Pali, a village 15 miles away from south of Satara in the first week of May 1736<sup>120</sup>. This was the first visit of the two cousins after the celebrated treaty of the Warna in 1731. Atleast by this visit, the Maharaj wanted to nullify Sambhaji's opposition to the Maratha expansion in the Konkan.

Pilaji Jadhav was communicating to Satara the progress of the siege against Gowalkot<sup>121</sup>. He also assured the Maharaj that he was doing his utmost efforts in the siege of Gowalkot<sup>122</sup>.

Chimaji Appa proposed to take advantage of the tide of success by moving down with the force, he was commanding and hurting it against the place. He asked Pilaji's advice in such an attempt.<sup>124</sup> He was of the opinion that more force and help to capture Gowalkot was necessary, so Chimaji Appa despatched two guns and some men to Pilaji. But this was not sufficient. Therefore Pilaji put forth his demands to Chimaji Appa for supply of men and money for the seige of Gowalkot. Chimaji at once acceded to Pilaji's request and despatched fresh reinforcements<sup>125</sup>. Although men and money were received by Pilaji, he gave serious thought to the strategy of blockade as Gowalkot was surrounded by deep water channels It was his intention to close every point of pratical access as to render it dangerous either to enter the place or to leave it. He decided to stop Sidi's passage through the creek<sup>126</sup>. In this

endeavour, he wanted naval assistance of Sambhaji Angre who was so defiant with the Maharaj that he told the representative of the Maharaj had no business to put up a fight for the Konkan<sup>127</sup>. Knowing Sambhaji's hostile attitude to the Maratha cause in Konkan, Pilaji Jadhav addressed a letter of request for co-operation to Sambhaji Angre and met him at Jaygad about June 7th<sup>128</sup>. This helped Pilaji Jadhav to silence Sambhaji who gave no help to the Marathas. Jadhav was occupying the ground at Ambadas near Dhamni heights as he was asking the Huzurat troops commanded by Dhumal, Fadtare, Yesaji Anant and Bhoite to erect batteries at Kalsutta. But they remained inactive in their cantonment and neglected erecting batteries. So Pilaji's method of blockade did not take shape<sup>129</sup>. In this way whole of May and June passed away, Jadhav wrote to the Peshwa giving details of the fighting near Gowalkot and explaining his difficulties. Lack of coordination in Maratha tactics was in utter despondency<sup>130</sup>.

As heavy rain began, men began deserting the camp, due to the filth, weather sickness also created havoc. Jadhav himself also fell ill but vowed to continue the operation in a spirit of do or die. Chimanaji Bapuji, a Saraswat Sardar of the Peshwa that Pilaji Jadhav had been seriously ailing and requested in the letter that Jadhav should be at once removed from the seat of war to his own family<sup>131</sup>. The same writer started Pilaji's unwillingness as that was the first commission which Shahu had entrusted to him after 28 years and he could not very well decline it<sup>132</sup>. Pilaji's illness practically sealed the fate of the campaign Pilaji Jadhav was

recalled<sup>133</sup> and a treaty with Sidi was concluded on the basis of the terms suggested by the Peshwa in 1733. Jadhav arrived back at Poona on 30th July 1736<sup>134</sup>.

Although the treaty was concluded it was immediately violated by the Sidi by raiding districts round about Pen<sup>135</sup>. Therefore the negotiations were opened with the Sidi<sup>136</sup>. On 25th September 1736, an agreement was reached between the Peshwa and Sidi thereby bringing peace to the land. By the treaty a double government was established in the eleven Mahals of the Sidis's territory. Treaty between Peshwa Bajirao and the Sidi of Janjira respecting the system of joint control over the territories took place on 2nd of Shaban Suhursun 1133.

“The treaty states that, the ryots and the cultivators of different Mahals have suffered grievously and ruinously from calamities, distressess and repeated disturbances, whereupon the whole of the Zamindars and ryots of all of the nine Mahals appeared and impulsively represented that unless a treaty is formed between this government and the Peshwa, the country will never be restored to the enjoyment of peace, tranquility and happiness and more particularly the fields will never be cultivated; therefore on hearing this petition it was incumbent on the authorities to satisfy and quiet their subjects and restore them to that peace and tranquility; in consequence whereof from the present year the following mode and systems were jointly adopted for the future to conduct the affairs and collect the respective and proper revenue of all the following eleven Mahals, viz :



1. Mamle Tale, exclusive of the Kusba ( Chief Town )
2. Tupa Nizampoor, excepting the Kusba.
3. Tupa Goregaon, excepting the village Tupegaon.
4. Purgunna Nadgaon Murud.
5. Pargunna Dive.
6. Pargunna Gosale, excepting the Kusba.
7. Purgunna Birwadee, excepting the Kusba.
8. Tupa Govele.
9. Tupa Mandle.
10. Purgunna Sreevurdhana.
11. Purguna Mhysle.

This is the treaty for the arrangements of the above mentioned eleven Mahals and it contains and comprehends the following claims, articles and conditions.

(1) The Jamabandy (revenue assessment) of the Mahals should be made jointly by the servants of both governments and all taxes and revenue should be collected by both the parties and received the whole name half and half.

The undermentioned Mahals are assigned to each Government as follows<sup>138</sup>.



To the Sidi Sarkar  
5  $\frac{1}{2}$  Mahals namely

---

1. Pargana Nadgoon Marud
2. Pargana Shrivardhan
3. Pargana Dive
4. Pargana Mayske
5. Pargana Taluka Mandle
- II Pargana Taluka Gowale
- 24  $\frac{1}{2}$  villages

To the Peshwa's government.  
5  $\frac{1}{2}$  Mahals namely

---

1. Tarf Tale
  2. Prant Gosale
  3. Tarf Nizampur
  4. Tarf Goregaon
  5. Prant Burvadee
  - II Tarf Gowale
  - 24  $\frac{1}{2}$  villages
- 

Half of Tuppa Govele,  
being villages; one  
village named Varouly is  
expected, it being the Inam  
of the Deshmukh; and  
the remainder, forty nine  
villages, were divided half  
and 24 villages and  $\frac{1}{2}$   
being the share of this  
Govt. as follows :

Half of Tuppa Govele, being  
fifty villages; one village  
Varouly is expected, it being  
the Inam for the Deshmukh and  
the remainder, forty nine villages  
were divided half and half, 24  
villages and half being the share  
of the Peshwa's Government as  
follows :

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Moujee Ambet | 1. Mouje Dabble      |
| 2. Soorgoan     | 2. Mouje Telboodrook |
| 3. Vamve        | 3. Mouje Bhunddiulee |
| 4. Iipnee       | 4. Mouje Sunderee    |
| 5. Kole         |                      |
| 6. Kunghar      |                      |
| 7. Khangaon     |                      |
| 8. Lep          |                      |
| 9. Sangrud      |                      |

Treaty dated 25th September 1736.

By the above treaty dated 25th September 1736, a double Government was established in the eleven Mahals jointly by the two powers and for this purpose agent or agents to be appointed by them in the Mahals administered by the other party. The Port of Bajpuri was to remain with the Sidi; Roha was to remain exclusively under the control of the Marathas<sup>139</sup>.

The establishment of double government in the eleven Mahals was an arrangement which worked obviously to the advantage of the Maratha power, enabling them to infiltrate its influence in the Sidi's country. Only his island forts of Janjira, Kausa and Underi remained with the Sidi. Due to the presence of Maratha revenue collectors in his territory it was difficult for the Sidis to become

hostile towards the Marathas. His large number of naval ships were destroyed. So the Sidi became in all but name a tributary of the Maratha state<sup>140</sup>.

### **THE SIDIS AND THE PESHWA**

After strenuous struggle, the Marathas could not destroy the Sidi. The Sidis remained the masters of Janjira, Anjanwel , Gowalkot and Underi. The Peshwa got only Raigad, Mahad and Bankot. Raigad as a capital of Shivaji had lost its significance during these days. Although the leading Maratha soldiers and statesmen like Bajirao, Chimaji Appa, Shripatrao Pratinidhi, Damaji Thorat, Pilaji Jadhav had taken part in this campaign, at various times their achievement was insignificant. The causes seem to be as follows :

- (1) There was no unified command.
- (2) Shahu Maharaj seating at Satara should not have held control of the Konkan operation.
- (3) Bajirao instigated the Sidi to defeat Shripatrao Pratinidhi.
- (4) The Peshwa also secretly asked the Angre not to cooperate with Shripatrao Pratinidhi during this campaign.
- (5) The Maratha navy under Sambhaji Angre did not cooperate with the land force of the Peshwa in blockading the Sidi forts nor preventing the English succour to the Sidis.

Despite the treaty, the Marathas continued the siege of Gowalkot till February 1757, without achieving any success<sup>141</sup>. At this time Sambhaji Angre had a desire to attack Bombay<sup>142</sup>. In September 1740, Manaji Angre defeated the Sidi of Underi who attacked Thal and Nagothane.<sup>143</sup> Manaji continued to be unfriendly with the Sidis as reported by the English on 12/04/1744<sup>144</sup>.

Sambhaji Angre died on 12th February 1742<sup>145</sup>. His brother Tulaji succeeded to the command of Vijayadurg. Maharaj Shahu had ordered Tulaji to capture Anjanwel. Tulaji tried to buy neutrality of the English in this affairs. Therefore Tulaji approached the English and expressed his desire for concluding a treaty of peace with them. How can the English compromise with their enemy Angre ? They did not want Anjanwel to go to the Marathas<sup>146</sup>. They gave a negative reply to Tulaji. When the Peshwa Balaji Bajirao came to know this he wrote to the English saying that Tulaji Angre was deputed by Maharaj Shahu to capture Anjanwel and therefore they should not obstruct him.<sup>147</sup> However the English turned a deaf ear to the Peshwa's letter and helped the Sidis against Tulaji Angre<sup>148</sup>. Maharaj Shahu also urged on the English to despatch their envoy to Satara to iron out the differences if any and not to help the Sidis<sup>149</sup>. The Peshwa also requested the English to leave the Sidi alone to fight Tulaji Angre<sup>150</sup>. There was no effect of these two letters on the English. They continued their policy of helping the Sidi Yakubkhan who sought their help by despatching a letter dated 27/01/1745 as follows "Under God my chief reliance on the

company and your friendship and my land and wealth are at your disposal and therefore what need I write more"<sup>151</sup>.

Tulaji Angre attacked Anjanwel from land and the sea and blockaded and captured it. On hearing the news of the capture of Anjanwel, Sidi Yacub of Gowalkot ran away from the fort. Shortly Tulaji besieged Gowalkot and succeeded in capturing the same<sup>152</sup>. Shahu got much pleased when he heard victory news from Tulaji Angre.

The Killedar of Underi suspected the Maratha designs to capture Underi after the conquest of Anjanwel and Gowalkot. He informed the English that unless he was helped immediately, the fort would fall into the hands of the Angre<sup>153</sup> and requested for the help of war material. However the English refused to accede to Sidi's request<sup>154</sup>. Manaji Angre attacked the fort of Underi. It was repulsed by the Sidi with a defeat and a wound on the thigh of Manaji<sup>155</sup>. He got the Peshwa's help and the combined forces inflicted defeat on Sidis<sup>157</sup>.

### **SAMBHAJI ANGRE**

It is already seen that a new English-Peshwa-Manaji axis was established to curb Sambhaji Angre and keep him away from Kolaba. In 1739, while the Portuguese were besieged at Bassein by the Marathas under Chimaji Appa . Manaji blocked the sea approach thus cutting of all supplies<sup>158</sup>. In 1740, a Portuguese fleet was destroyed by the Angre<sup>159</sup>. Both the brothers Manaji and Sambhaji



were able seamen, but for their mutual dissensions, they could have easily accomplished their father's ambition conquest of the whole coast from Bombay to Goa.

The English of Bombay were so much afraid of the Angre that they concluded a peace treaty with the Sidi of Janjira on 6th December 1733. In the treaty it was made clear that they would make a league against all the enemies of both the Government in India particularly against the Angre<sup>160</sup>.

A sum of Rs. 21 Lakhs was spent by the English in equipping a fleet to chastise the Angre<sup>161</sup>. In the same treaty, there was a secret agreement that in equipping a fleet to chastise and destroy the enemy Angre, the Government of Bombay had spent rupees Two Lakhs which they had reported to the court of Directors of London and decided to charge extraordinary of the war with the Angre<sup>162</sup>.

Captain John Rawlinson while sailing in the Cumberland galley (ship) importing, was attacked by three of Angre's ghurabs and six gallivats near Bassalmore. Captain Rawlinson finding it impossible to withstand a superior force ran his vessel ashore and quitted her. Thereupon Angres took away about half her cargo and then retired. Captain Rawlinson approached the Bombay council for assistance. They expressed their inability to assist the Captain saying that they had two Gallivats, as such it was no wise to encounter three of Angre's grabs and six Gallivats<sup>163</sup>.

In the year 1735, December, the Bombay Government came to know that Sambhaji Angre had concluded a peace treaty with Khem Sawant of Sawantwadi and they intended to join their fleet to venture into the sea. Therefore the British decided not to cruise off their vessels near enemy ports<sup>164</sup>. On 26th December 1735 Sambhaji Angre's five grabs captured English company's Mastership Derby and taken to the coast. In action Derby's masts were destroyed by the Angre's grabs. They also killed seven men and taken 115 crew as prisoners. On receipt of this melancholy news, the President of the Bombay council was shocked. But he expressed his helplessness in carrying the measures to protect the ships molestation by Sambhaji's grabs. At this time, Sambhaji sent a peace proposal to the English through his Vakil and asked the Bombay council to depute Capt. InchBird for further negotiations. Sambhaji's peace terms were that they should not help Manaji when Sambhaji was on war with him. The council refused to agree to Sambhaji's peace terms.

Sambhaji Angre's fleet created horror in the mind of the East India Company of Bombay. Sambhaji Angre's three Ghurabs and six gallivats attacked Morible Masters ship Derby near Bassalmore on the morning of 26th December 1735 and captured it. The Angre's officers asked the ship's masters not to bring any gun to bear on them. Immediately at 8 'o clock in the morning, Angre's officers destroyed most of their rigging. At one shot they destroyed the main mast of the ship and by two double headed shot they grounded

the ship in two foot water. Then at 4 o' clock in the evening, the ship Derby surrendered to the Angre's ships. Immediately on surrendering the ship Mr. Christopher Burrows, third mate, Mr. Benjamin Hall Purser, Robert Oswin, Midshipman and John Key quarter Master belonging to the ship were captured. Seven sailors were killed and 115 were made prisoners. The Angre anchored the British captured ship at Southern drook and allowed the above mentioned three officers on parole to visit the Bombay Castle. As the ship was from Tellicherry, the Tellicherry ship of the company was assured of every help by the Bombay Company. By the fatal loss of the Derby, the British could not have treasure sufficient to provide a loading cottee at Moche<sup>167</sup>.

After creating panic atmosphere, Sambhaji Angre sent a peace proposal with his agent Moro Pant, who met Captain De'souza, captain of Cheul. The proposal contained that the British East India company should not help Manaji, whenever he was attacked by Sambhaji. Sambhaji also assured the British to release the prisoners at Gheria and the ships were captured by him. The President ordered Captain Inchbird to tell Sambhaji's Vakil their inability to agree to his proposals<sup>168</sup>.

Sambhaji Angre did not get discouraged on receipt of negative reply from the British. In September 1736, Sambhaji deputed fifteen of his sailors and his Vakil Moropant to Choul desiring peace with the British. The English thought of Sambhaji's proposal seriously. They also thought of agreeing with Sambhaji's proposal for the

release of their prisoners. Therefore the President suggested to Sambhaji Angre that the company would agree upon the cessation of arms for six months on delivering the English prisoners<sup>169</sup> by him. According to Sambhaji's suggestion Capt. Inchbird was directed to visit Gheria and received the English prisoners from the Angre. On receiving the prisoners Capt. Inchbird was told to suggest restoration of ships and cargoes which were captured by Sambhaji and kept at Gheria<sup>170</sup>. Capt. Inchbird went to Gheria by the vessel with Sambhaji's Vakil Moropant. Mission of Capt. Inchbird succeeded in getting released the following ships captured by Sambhaji. The Prince of Wales, King George, Princess Carolina, Victoria Rose and Neptune and all the English that were prisoners with Sambhaji Angre<sup>171</sup> on 23rd November 1736. The English prisoners at Gheria were released by Sambhaji Angre with the efforts of Capt. Inchbird. In December 1736 Captain submitted to the Bombay government an account of the transaction entered into for obtaining the release of the English prisoners at Gheria in Sambhaji Angre's captivity.

The account of his expenses while at Chaul and at Gheria on board the fleet, as also of presents given to Sambhaji's men thereof Rupees One thousand Eight hundred and a half was ordered to be paid as follows :



Capt. Inchbird's own expenses	...	...	385-20
Capt. Lewis's extra expenses	...	...	200-00
in entertaining Sambhaji's people			
when on board with him at Gheria.			
Capt.Sandiland's, extra expenses			
in entertaining Sambhaji's people			
when on board with him at Gheria	...		151-00
			-----
			736-20
Presents given among Sambhaji's			
chief Brahmins, Subhedars, seepoys			
etc. amounting to	...	...	1080-00
			-----
			1816-20
			=====

and the Portuguese captain of Chaul who afforded his assistance for release of the English prisoners was paid Rs.600/-. Capt.Inchbird was congratulated by the board for his fine services<sup>172</sup>. In January 1737, the English succeeded in capturing Sambhaji Angre's ghurabs near Mangalore. The British captured two Subhadars and many laskars on the ship. They also ordered that the two Subhedars be confined without irons and employed on the works with allowance for their subsistance<sup>173</sup>. The French at Pondicherry also got disgusted with Sambhaji Angre's practical activities. Sambhaji Angre did not spare the French ship on the sea. Therefore to punish Sambhaji, Dumas, the French General at Pondicherry wrote to



Bombay President proposing joint action against Sambhaji Angre. The President and the Board left this issue to be settled by the respective powers at home<sup>174</sup>.

The British also received the news from the commanding officer at Kunderi that Sambhaji Angre was preparing to invade Kunderi Island with seven ghurabs and 30 Gallivats, so the President asked Captain Williamson to put his ship in a proper posture<sup>175</sup>. But soon the President got the news that Sambhaji's design to come to attack Kunderi with the fleet was without foundation<sup>176</sup>.

In order to get the opinion of the member of the Board about the treatment to be meted out to Sambhaji's men, who were made prisoners, the President read out Sambhaji's letter to the members and thereupon his reply to Sambhaji's letter saying that the prisoners would be released at the proper time<sup>177</sup>. In October 1738, the President came to know that Sambhaji had filled and actually manned Nine garbs and thirty Gallivats then laying in Gheria, which he wanted to employ against Manaji at Kolaba and the Portuguese places<sup>178</sup>.

The disputes between Manaji and Sambhaji, notwithstanding the division of Kanhoji's estates agreed upon, continued and led to open clashes. In 1737, Manaji, with the help of the Peshwa repulsed an attack by Sambhaji and the Portuguese<sup>179</sup>.

In December 1739, Commodore Bagwel with four ghurabs was cruising in search of Sambhaji's fleet at Gheria and on 22nd came

upon nine of his ghurabs and thirteen gallivats issuing from the Vijayadurg river, the Commodore chased them and did much damage and killed their admiral. Therafter they took refuge in the Rajapur river<sup>180</sup>.

In 1740, Sambhaji took possession of Bharatgad, Bhagwantgad and greater part of the Wadi possessions in the Salshi province<sup>181</sup>. In 1740, Sambhaji threatened Kolaba<sup>182</sup> itself. But the Peshwa's timely help saved Manaji<sup>183</sup>. Having received the news about Sambhaji's attack on Kolaba, the Portuguese anticipated the perilous consequences that may result out of the attack. Therefore they decided to help Manaji to prevent the fall of Kolaba and despatched an aid by sea to Manaji.<sup>184</sup>

On 6th April 1739, it was reported to Chimaji Appa that the Dutch fleet attacked the fort Vijayadurg. So Sambhaji Angre attacked the Dutch strongly by sailing in their direction. Their two gallivats were captured, sunk and the cargo there on was brought into Vijayadurg fort<sup>185</sup>. In the same month Sambhaji claimed Korla and Revdanda as his<sup>186</sup>.

In the treaty of Bassein that concluded with the Marathas by the Portuguese there was an article 4 regarding the Angre which sums as follows : If in conveying the Hindu, Christian or Muslim families from Bassein, more transport ships are required, they should be supplied by the Marathas and should be allowed to reach their destination without being molested by the Angre<sup>187</sup>.

In 1742, Sambhaji noticed the Portuguese fleet escorting the ships full of rice to Goa. So he attacked and destroyed the fleet and took possession of the ships loaded with rice<sup>188</sup>. Sambhaji Angre did not give up his attempt to capture Kolaba.

Sambhaji Angre's coming up to Kolaba was in concert with some of Manaji's own officers that he had accordingly got possession of the fortress of Alibag<sup>189</sup>. Thereafter he raised battery against Kolaba. He would have infallibly got it into his hand, had not the British fleet appeared in that critical juncture off Kolaba (31st March 1740)<sup>190</sup>.

Thereafter with the help of his half brother Tulaji, Sambhaji again attacked Manaji's territory, took Alibag, Thal, Sagargad, laid seige to Kolaba and cut off the garrison's supply of fresh water<sup>191</sup>. Tulaji was bravely fighting along with Sambhaji to capture Hirakot<sup>192</sup>. In these straits Manaji appealed to the Peshwa Balaji Bajirao. Shahu Maharaj also ordered Bhagwantrao Amatya to go the help of Manaji and inform the news of defeat of Tulaji Angre<sup>193</sup>. Chimaji Appa went to the Konkan to help Manaji with Peshwa Balaji Bajirao in April 1740<sup>194</sup>. The British too at this time came to help Manaji with their squadron<sup>195</sup>. Manaji attacked the besiegers and took Tulaji prisoner (9th April 1740)<sup>196</sup>. At this time, the Portuguese sieged Cheul Pal and Mirgad<sup>197</sup>.

The Peshwa brought Tulaji to Pune as captive and released him.<sup>198</sup> The English commodore joined Manaji with his division on the 3rd<sup>199</sup> and chased Sambhaji's fleet to the Ratnagiri coast and

forced Sambhaji to retire to Suvarnadurg<sup>200</sup> suspecting Peshwa's evil designs of keeping Kolaba for himself. Manaji immediately reconciled with Sambhaji through the mediation of the English<sup>201</sup>. On 10th July 1741, Sambhaji captured ship Jupiter belonging to the Portuguese which was sailing towards Goa. Sambhaji free from the risk of attack from the north, spread his power over Ratnagiri subdivision of Dabhol and over the greater part of Sawantwadi<sup>202</sup>.

Sambhaji Angre was down with illness for three months. He died on 12th January 1742<sup>203</sup>.

With the conquest of Salsette and Bassein by Chimaji Appa in 1739, the Peshwa and the English became near neighbours and found it necessary to know each other intimately and cultivate a closer understanding. The English despatched two embassies, one to Shahu Maharaj at Satara and the other to Chimaji Appa at Bassein, to acquaint themselves with aims and working of the Maratha court and assess the strength of their new neighbour. The new Peshwa's servants in the Konkan pursued their master's interests with great vehemence and continued to squeeze Angres Manaji, Sambhaji and their successors out of their land possessions, contributing materially to the success of the English navy at sea over their rival. The advent of Peshwa's power in Angre's field in Konkan and the failure of the Angre brothers in coming to an understanding among themselves and their neighbours, upset the arrangement, isolated the naval command and dried up the resources of the Maratha fleet.

In the dissension over the Portuguese treaty, Chimaji Appa conveyed to the English envoy that “both the Angres were pirates, robbers, senseless impolite fellows”. Inchbird agreed, saying “they were past all cure and it was labour in vain to reclaim them”. Chimaji told the envoy that, “if the English were ready to act in cooperation with a Maratha force to destroy the pirate, next season, he would himself come down, and join the English in taking all Angre’s forts and country”<sup>203</sup>. The treaty ending the war with the Portuguese contained an article which provided for joint action for destroying the Angre.

In 1740 March, Sambhaji Angre suddenly appeared before Kolaba, landed troops and with little opposition, “seized all the ports and strong places in consequence of secret understanding with Manaji’s officers, only Kolaba and one small out fort holding out for Manaji”. Sambhaji sent a message to his brother that he was visiting Alibag to pay respects to his father's Samadhi. The prospect of Sambhaji establishing himself of Kolaba and obliging company to increase their marine force (the expense of which is already intolerant) to secure the navigation of the coast was altogether unpalatable to the Bomaby council. They immediately despatched relief to Manaji under Capt. Inchbird and anxiously watched the issue of contest. In the meanwhile a large force under Chimaji Appa also arrived at Kolaba to support Manaji in the struggle. Caught between two fires, Sambhaji Angre had little chance of escaping. He was fortunately aided out of the impasse by Manji himself, who to his





dismay found his ally and patron occupying his forts Karanja, Elephanta, Pali Mirgad and making himself free with his territory round these strongholds. Sambhaji, surrendering the places seized by him, quickly slipped away and repaired to Shahu Maharaj's court to lodge a complaint against the Peshwa's high handed action. Nothing apparently came out of the visit, Sambhaji returning disappointed at his place<sup>204</sup>.

Acting on Capt. Inchbird's report that the Marathas (Peshwa) were too jealous of Sambhaji's power, that they were bent to reducing him and would attack him at the opportune time and would like to know company's intention." The Bombay council gave its assent to any expedition by the Peshwa against Sambhaji which would humble a resolute bold enemy"<sup>205</sup>.

Chimaji Appa who had conducted these negotiations died in December 1740 and Sambhaji's annual incursions remained unchecked. He seized the ship resolution returning to Bombay from Surat and caused quite a panic. Sambhaji died a year later on 12th January 1742.

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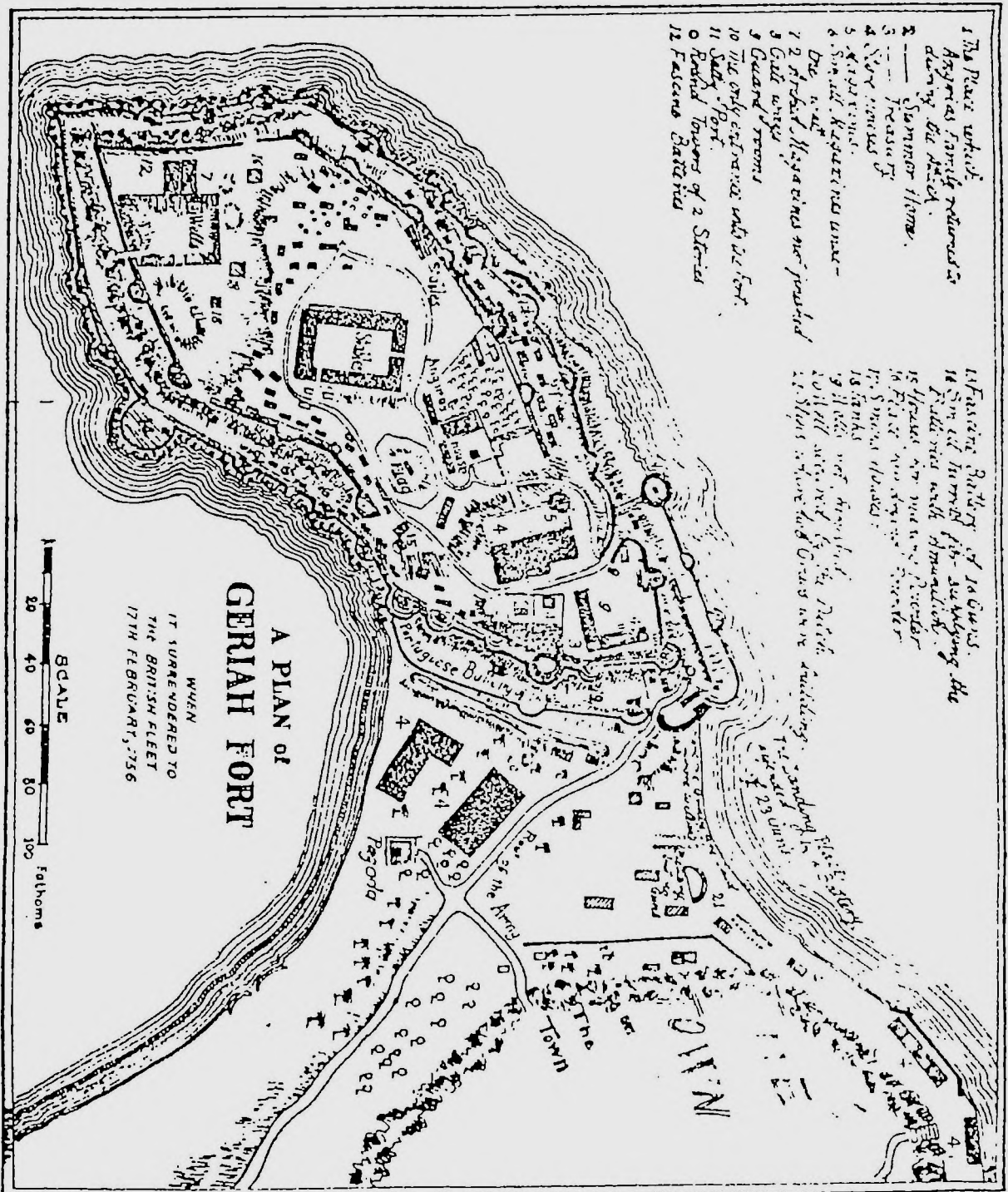


Fig. 6—A plan of Geriah Port when it surrendered to the British Fleet in 1756

## **CHAPTER V**

### **SARKHEL TULAJI ANGRE 1742 TO 1756 A.D.**

Sambhaji Angre was down with illness for three months. He died on 12th January 1742<sup>1</sup>. Thereafter, Manaji went to Satara before Shahu Maharaj and requested him to make him Sarkhel, as the eldest surviving member of Kanhoji's family. This claim was disputed by Sambhaji's half brother Tulaji. Shahu Maharaj declared that he would confer the Sarkhelship, held previously by Sambhaji, on any one of the Angres family; who would capture Anjanwel and Gowalkot, the two important posts which even the Peshwa Bajirao could not capture during the war of 1733 and which still remained as outposts of the Janjira state<sup>2</sup>. Tulaji at once undertook the campaign with the help of Maharaj Shahu and with great heroism captured Gowalkot and Anjanwel on 25th January 1745 and immediately communicated the happy news to the Maharaj Shahu<sup>3</sup>.

As promised, Shahu Maharaj bestowed Sarkhelship on Tulaji Angre. In 1742, during the first year in his office as Sarkhel, his men seized the Jupitar, one of the finest vessels of Europe, which La Bourdanais had despatched to Goa for provisions<sup>4</sup>. In November 1742, the Sidi of Janjira found that Tulaji's fleet and some English ships were locked up in a combat in which Tulaji's boats succeeded in carrying away two of his trading boats<sup>5</sup>. In December 1742, the Bombay Ghurab encountered Tulaji's Gheriah squadron of 9 Ghurabs and there was a stiff fight between them for half an hour

but, in the ensuing nightfall, Tulaji's fleet managed to get away without any loss<sup>6</sup>. In April 1743, Tulaji's gallivats attacked the English ketch Salamander. When Manaji found the English boat engaged, he pushed out in person with gallivats and chased his brother Tulaji away<sup>7</sup>. The havoc of thirty years war between the Angre and the English was noticed by both and they agreed to have a perpetual peace. But on receipt of Capt.Inchbird's report<sup>8</sup>, the British thought of cementing the union between the English and the Peshwa, to punish the Angre. The report states : "that the Marathas (Peshwa) were too jealous of Sambhaji's power and so many hostilities had already passed between them, that they were bent to reduce him and would attack him as soon as the proper season would allow of their entering upon the action and were very pressing to gain a declaration of the company's intention. "The Bombay Council decided to side with the Peshwa and assist him in any expedition against the Angre<sup>9</sup>. Tulaji, who succeeded Manaji, was active and brave but naughty and altogether lacking in political foresight. He was considering himself as a servant of the crown and started defying the orders of the Peshwa. Tulaji, a courageous and daring seaman, followed a line of action dictated by his personal needs and selfish interests.

In November 1744, the Viceroy of Goa received numerous letters from the local people of Bassein to relieve them from Maratha oppression. To achieve this, two Portuguese frigates with a caravan of 21 ships were ordered to proceed to the North. The Armada of the Angre attacked them. For six days the Portuguese and the



Angre fought but with no result<sup>10</sup>. By a letter dated February 11, 1745, addressed to the Viceroy of Goa, the Angre of Kolaba showed his willingness to help the Portuguese, if they wished to take back Karanja (Uran) and Peshwa was irksome to him<sup>11</sup>. This shows that Manaji's relations with the Peshwa steadily deteriorated.

Relation between Manaji and Shankarji Pant Phadke were not friendly either. Manaji had captured a ship of a certain merchant by the name of Nathas, in whom Shankarji was interested. As an answer to this move, Shankarji captured a ship at Kharepatan possessing Manaji's permit. Manaji demanded its release through the Peshwa, but shrewd Shankarji explained to the Peshwa how it was a question of right, rather than the release of a ship. In 1744, Peshwa's men took the fort of Bhairavgad belonging to Manaji. To retaliate, the latter despatched three ghurabs and thirty galbats to Bassein to attack the Peshwa's armada<sup>12</sup>.

### **SAWANTWADI VS ANGRE (1746 - 1750)**

In 1746, when the Sawants were trying to defend their forts from the Portuguese, Tulaji Angre attacked Sawantwadi essentially because the Sawants were in a difficult condition<sup>13</sup>. The power of the Angres was felt by all the maritime powers on the western coast. Even the English were afraid of the naval strength of the Angres. When such a powerful force of Tulaji Angre attacked the Sawants, Jayram and Ramchandra Sawant complained against Tulaji to Maharaj Shahu of Satara through their Vakil, Sultan Rayjade<sup>14</sup>. Peshwa Balaji Bajirao chose to help the Sawants against Tulaji Angre, even though

Tulaji Angre was, like the Peshwa, a follower of Maharaj Shahu of Satara.

Tulaji Angre was the Sardar of the Maharaj and therefore, obeyed the Maharaj rather than Peshwa Balaji Bajirao. The ambitious Peshwa wanted to subdue Tulaji Angre or to destroy his power. The Peshwa, therefore, sent help to Sawantwadi; whose forces defeated the army of the Angres near Kudal and repulsed them<sup>15</sup>. Jayram and Ramchandra Sawant, in February, 1748, captured Mudagad, the newly constructed fort of the Angres<sup>16</sup>. In retaliation, Tulaji made an assault on the Sawant's fort of Bharatgad in March 1749 and acquired it<sup>17</sup>. Ramchandra and Jayram, who knew the fort of Bharatgad intimately, bribed some of the officials of the Angre at the fort and in 1749 made an assault on it. The soldiers in the fort defended it for five days but due to the shortage of water, the men of Tulaji surrendered the fort to the Sawants, even before Tulaji Angre could reach Bharatgad with reinforcements.

Tulaji sent Rudraji Dhulap, his Subhedar to Goa to negotiate with the Portuguese for military help to regain the fort of Bharatgad. The Portuguese showed slight inclination to help and Rudraji Dhulap, therefore returned with hope on 22nd May, 1749. They however, did not give help to Tulaji, because it was not in the interest of the Portuguese to have the mighty Tulaji at Bharatgad.

Ultimately a decisive battle between Tualji Angre and Jayram Sawant was fought in 1750. Tulaji in order to avenge the loss of Bharatgad made elaborate preparations for his campaign. In 1750,

Tulaji reached Bambarda via Asyanath and Talgaon and raised his camp there<sup>19</sup>. When Jayram and Ranmchandra Sawant received the news of the invasion of Tulaji, they alongwith their Sardars like Havalkar and Usankar proceeded to fight Tulaji. a battle was fought between the two forces at Bambarda in 1750, in which the Sawants were defeated . Tulaji therefore, attacked Kudal and a stiff battle was fought between the two. Sardar Manaji Fakade from Kanhoji Angre, and Narasing and Angaji Kate from the Sawants fell in the battle<sup>20</sup>. Jayram Sawant, however came out victorious, defeating Tulaji who was pursued by the forces of Jayram upto Lanja and Devrukh.<sup>21</sup> The victory of the Sawants was complete and the Sawants burnt and plundered many villages in the territory of the Angres, who thereafter never on their own, crossed swords with the Sawants. Bharatgad and the districts between the Kudal and the Carner rivers were recovered and the third raid of Tulaji was successfully beaten off. His attempts against the chiefs of Vishalgad and Bavda met with a similar fate. To keep alive his fleet, he raided Malabar ports and preyed on merchant shipping. The southern portion of the west coast was at this time controlled by Tulaji Angre, who had his residence at Vijayadurg; and the Northern by Ramaji Mahadeo, the Peshwa's Governor of Kalyan. Both had contracted bitter hatred towards each other during the past several years. The Peshwa did not deal with the Angre directly. He left this matter in the hands of Ramaji Mahadeo. However Tulaji was anxious to maintain friendly relations with the Peshwa<sup>22</sup>. Since he became Sarkhel in 1745, Tulaji Angre plundered every English vessel that

came in his way. But no attack was made on him till joint expedition of the English and the Peshwa in 1755<sup>23</sup>.

Tulaji's territories extended from Bomaby to Malvan in the south, a sea port about 120 miles from it and the spread island near 16 miles. He had all ports on the western coast in his possession. Tulaji generally kept up an army of 30,000 sepoys and Topasses. his gunners and sea officers were mostly renegado Europeans, he had a large train of artillery, besides the cannons on his forts, ships and twelve elephants. The naval force of Tulaji Angre consisted of about 15 ghurabs which carried six and nine pounders and great number of men with small arms; five ketches, two ships of 40 guns and about 40 gallivats and other small crsfts<sup>24</sup>. During 1751, Tarabai then bitterly opposing the Peshwa instigated both the Portuguese and Tulaji Angre and promised the former the return of their territory of Bassein, if they would put down the Peshwa. It was the Peshwa's policy, in that difficult situation, to prevent an alliance of the Portuguese of Goa and the English of Bombay<sup>25</sup>. The Peshwa, for sometime, was trying his utmost to gain the friendship of the English. When Tulaji came to know this, he deputed his emissary to the English of Bombay in October 1754, with a proposal of peace treaty between them. The terms he offered were liberal enough to be acceptable. But because of the Peshwa's overtures , the English were not in a mood to accept them. They flatly refused to recognise the Angre's right to issue passes for their trading vessels, insisted on the restoration of all the ships seized



by him to depute a man of status to talk about peace<sup>26</sup>. Finally, the English turned down Tulaji Angre's proposals for peace<sup>27</sup>. The English of Bombay were the bitter enemies of the Angre; so also the Peshwa. But neither of them alone could defeat the Angre. Therefore, the Peshwa's proposal of friendship was accepted by the English with the sole intention of self interest and with no more love for the Peshwa than for Tulaji. Ramaji Mahadeo, Peshwa's Subhedar of Salsette became instrumental in concluding the agreement for making joint assault on the Angre's strongholds. Mahadeo had talks with the Bombay Governor Bouchier and agreed to engage the services of the Bombay navy for putting down Tualaji Angre on the following terms<sup>28</sup>.

- (1) All the marine shall be immediately under the command of the English, and the management of all affairs, both by sea and land, carried on by the approbation of both parties.
- (2) All Vessels, whatever that may be taken from Tulaji, shall be equally divided between the English and Marathas except the "Restoration" which is to be the sole property of the English.
- (3) Bankot and ( fort ) Himatnagar with the river belonging thereto, and with five villages to the southward of the said river, to be delivered to the English, as the Hon'ble Company's property for ever, and the Marathas not to levy any additional inland duties.



- (4) The English engage to keep the sea and prevent Angria's fleet from throwing succour into any place that may be attacked, but at this season only Suvarnadurg, Anjanwel and Loz Vizay.
- (5) All ammunitions, guns and other stores that may be taken from the several forts in Angria's territories to belong entirely to the Marathas.
- (6) If Manaji's territories are jointly attacked, the fort of Candery, with the harbour, to be delivered into the Hon'ble Company with the village Havansea, Ramjaykar, Sarali, Sharny, Mandavem, Kolagaon, Donbarem, Kihim and Avas.
- (7) Any other articles that may be necessary to be agreed upon to be settled between the Governor and Nana Pandit Pradhan.

These terms were finalised on 19th March 1755.

The above mentioned agreement was drawn in September 1755 and confirmed in March 1756 . In October 1755, Admiral Watson came to Bombay from the Coromandel coast, with his squadron, and got ready to act against Angre. While the preparations were going on for the concerned expedition, the Admiral sent his first Lieutenant, Sir William Hewett, in an armed vessel, to sound the harbour of Vijayadurg and make proper observations. This was successfully done. The Angre, who observed the ship hovering about

the harbour for several days had ordered out some vessels to attack it, but Sir William returned safe to Bombay<sup>29</sup>.

The Peshwa also deputed Samsher Bahadar to Ratnagiri and asked the English to send the fleet there to help him<sup>30</sup>. Samsher Bahadar and Dinkar Pant reached Devrukh with their force and from there they advanced to Suvarnadurg<sup>31</sup>.

### **RAMAJI MAHADEO MARCHED AGAINST TULAJI**

Angre went to Sasti. In the meantime, the Sidis from Surat came down heavily on Manaji Angre. They laid siege to Manaji's fort at Alibag. Ramaji Mahadeo went to Manaji's help with the English force. The battle ensued in which the Sidi's 1500 men were killed along with the two Sardars. The Sidi was pushed to Underi. Thereafter all Maratha naval ships and the warships of the English marched towards the Vijayadurg<sup>32</sup> (20th March 1755).

The East India company appointed Commodore James, he was Commander in Chief of the company's marine force in India, to lead an expedition against the Angre with the help of the Maratha fleet<sup>33</sup>. He sailed on the 22nd of March 1755, in the ship "Protector" containing forty four guns. He was joined by the Maratha fleet, consisting of seven ghurabs and sixty gallivats and having on board 10,000 land forces at Chaul. Departing from there, they anchored again 15 miles to the North of Suvarnadurg. Here, Ramji Pant disembarked with the troops, in order to cover the rest of the way by land route<sup>34</sup>. On request of the Government of Bombay, the

Madras authorities sent troops, under Captain Clive and naval force under Admiral Watson to join the operation<sup>35</sup>.

Ramji Pant sent, from Suvarnadurg, land force to capture Bankot and Himatgad<sup>36</sup>. He also attacked and carried the force of Kanakdurg, Fategad and Gova which are inside Suvarnadurg<sup>37</sup>.

All the forces now aimed at capturing Gheria. On 7th April 1755, the English fleet began to fire on the Angre's fleet from the ships and shore. "The Angre's men also exerted themselves with uncommon industry, flinging overboard all their lumber to lighten their vessels, not only crowding all their sails they could bend, but also hanging up their garments, and even their turbans, to catch every breath of air<sup>38</sup>. On the same day, Commodore James began to fire upon the Angre from the ships and shore and landed a number of people under the cover of it, opposite to the gate of the fort. At half past twelve, they were out and broke open the gate of the fort and entered the fort without much opposition. Thus, the British secured the victory<sup>39</sup>. The British entered fort Gova without resistanc. They found 44 guns in it. In the other two forts, viz Fategad and Kanakdurg, they found 20 guns each and in Suvarnadurg they found about 50 guns. They burnt all the houses in the fort and devastated them. Suvarnadurg is built on an island with 2 1/2 fathoms water all round<sup>40</sup>. The Peshwa's land forces marched to take Bankot and Himatgad which they occupied in April 1755<sup>41</sup>.

Ramaji Ramadeo, the Peshwa's Subhedar treacherously captured the forts of Suvarnadurg, Bankot, Palgad and Rasalgad. Within eight days, the Peshwa's general captured eight forts belonging to the Angre. The Angre's men were bribed. So, there was no resistance from the Angre's side. Ramchandra Pant intended to capture Vijayadurg in order to bring an end to the Angre's kingdom<sup>42</sup>.

It is already stated, Samasher Bahadur and Dinkar Mahadeo were deputed by the Peshwa on the Konkan campaign. From Poona, they marched through Ambhagat and laid siege to Ratnagiri. The Peshwa instructed the English to help Samsher Bahadur in capturing Ratnagiri. But the English refused the help in the rainy season<sup>43</sup>.

However, after the rainy season, Commodore James was instructed to lay off the large British fleet in that fort to prevent the Angre throwing in succour<sup>44</sup>. In the meantime, the Peshwa's troops captured Anjanwel and Govalkot on the 14th January 1756<sup>45</sup>. Fort Ratnagiri and other places belonging to the Angre were captured on 18th February 1756<sup>46</sup>.

On 6th February 1756, a meeting of the council of land and sea officers was held, in which several matters were settled particularly, the shares of the prize money upon a presumption of success<sup>47</sup>. On the same day, the land forces under the command of Colonel Clive and the naval force under Admiral Watson started from Bombay to join the Maratha fleet in a creek to the northward of Gheria (Vijayadurg)<sup>48</sup>.



The Admiral arrived before Vijayadurg on 11th February. The firing started on the 12th. For about half an hour, there was brisk firing from the fort. At 4 in the afternoon of the same day, a chance shot falling on one of the Angre's ship set fire to his entire fleet and in a short time all the seventy ships belonging to the Angre were burnt to ashes<sup>49</sup>. The fort was surrendered and the British soldiers took possession of it on the 3rd of March 1756. The Marathas who were attempting to take possession of it, were prevented by Captain Forbes by drawing his sword with a threat to cut the hand of those who advance a step further<sup>50</sup>. So Captain Forbes was allowed to take possession of the fort. Forbes found in the fort 250 guns, ten lakhs of rupees in cash, six brass mortars and about 4 thousand pounds worth goods and valuables<sup>51</sup>.

Tulaji surrendered to the Marathas. He had been seeking peace terms with the Peshwa which were not even considered. The President was glad to hear that Tulaji's whole fleet was destroyed. He was insisting on Watson to bring Tulaji to Bombay as captive<sup>52</sup>. But the Marathas refused as they had no orders from the Peshwa to that effect. The British similarly refused to handover the fort to the Marathas<sup>53</sup>. This was reported to the Peshwa in May 1756<sup>54</sup>.

There upon the Peshwa got annoyed with the English and wrote a strong letter asking them to depute a person to Poona to settle everything.<sup>55</sup> Accordingly, the English deputed a person and they came to an agreement on 12th October 1756<sup>56</sup>, by which Vijayadurg was handed over to the Marathas, in lieu of Bankot and

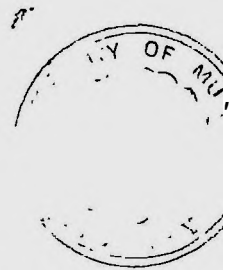


ten villages to be ceded to the British. On receipt of possession of Vijayadurg from the British, the province of Vijayadurg was placed under the admirability of Anandrao Dhulap and Suvarnadurg in charge of Ramaji Mahadeo<sup>57</sup>.

When the English were asked to give a share in the booty from Gheria, they said that the booty was taken away by his Majesty's men on whom the East India company had no control<sup>58</sup>. Tulaji Angre's family was taken in the fort and he himself was sent as a prisoner to the fort Rajmachi near Raigad and kept in confinement in various forts till his death in 1786 A.D.<sup>59</sup>.

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## **CHAPTER VI**

### **RAGHUJI ANGRE (1761 TO 1793 A.D.)**

After Tulaji had been removed, the Peshwa bestowed Sarkhelship on Tulaji's brother Manaji. In 1757, when Manaji was in the Deccan, helping the Peshwa against the Nizam, his territory was invaded and plundered by the Sidis. On his return Manaji cleared out Sidi's encroachment and attacked Danda Rajapuri<sup>2</sup>. Manaji also attacked Underi and found that Brahmins and their wives from the village of Saswane, Awas, Satiranje and Bhal as captives. They were released by Manaji<sup>3</sup>. The Marathas captured Underi from the Sidis with the help of Manaji in February, 1759<sup>4</sup> for which the British gave their help to the Peshwa<sup>5</sup>. Naro Trimbak was appointed as Killedar of Underi<sup>6</sup>. Manaji died on 13th September 1758<sup>7</sup>. With the death of Manaji Angre, the element of disunion in the Angre family was removed. Manaji's death materially damaged the Peshwa's cherished ambition of subjugating the Sidi of Janjira, as he had zealously co-operated with the Peshwa in that task a couple of months before. Manaji left 14 sons, ten legitimate, and four illegitimate. Raghuji the eldest and most capable of them all, was invested with both the hereditary titles of Sarkhel and Wazarat-Mab<sup>8</sup>. Raghuji Angre kept up a steadfast friendship with the Peshwa's house. After Manaji's death the Peshwa spent four long months from November 1758 to February 1759<sup>10</sup> touring and personally inspecting an expedition against the Sidi. Violent warrior Raghuji assaulted the Sidis strong post of Underi on 28th February 1759

and captured it. He also captured thereafter the fort of Kelga or Padmadurg, about three miles from Janjira itself on 21st February 1759. On 13th October 1760, the Peshwa pulled down the fort of Rajkot of Cheul and the grand Masjid in it. Cheul a Portuguese possession, had long been in the Maratha hands, but the strong ramparts and the Muslim mosque formed a perpetual nuisance to the Hindu inhabitants at the place and were completely razed to the ground.

At the same time, the Marathas had laid siege to the fort of Janjira. But the siege could not be carried vigorously, as the Maratha forces had to march to the north to strike against Asaf Shah Abdalli. The Marathas suffered heavy loss at Panipat. Grief-stricken Peshwa, Balaji Bajirao died on 23rd July 1761. This event gave the Sidis the necessary respite to recover their position. The English mediated between the marathas and the Sidis and proposed that the Marathas should restore the fort of Underi to the Sidis. In a letter dated 9th October, 1761, the Peshwa Madhavarao refused to comply with suggestion<sup>11</sup>. In the battle that ensued between the Sidis and the Marathas, the English joined the Sidis and hoisted the British flag at Janjira<sup>12</sup>. The Sidi himself had explained how he was reduced to the precarious position by the Marathas. In the following letter addressed to the English by the Sidi on 14th September 1761 "the Marathas attacked me again these three years... to the great ruin of us and their own people having plundered our everything. The country I was mending was also ruined, now to see the country as before will take 15 years. Before I can see it

in that manner, in case it is not invaded. They cut of all the gardens, carried about 60 guns from Conkery, as also manner of effects belonging to the Sarkar for 15 years. So I know what is to be done about it. They owe me my share of 18 years of produce in the country"<sup>13</sup>. The Sidis had renewed their attack on Maratha territory, although the English President had warned the Sidis against committing atrocities on the Marathas<sup>14</sup>.

On capturing the fort of Underi by the Marathas, the English proposed a settlement of the dispute between the Marathas and the Sidi Ibrahim Khan. The English President Crommelin proposed that the Marathas should restore the fort of Underi to the Sidis. The Peshwa Madhavrao declined to comply with the suggestion<sup>15</sup>. The Sidis did not get deterred. They renewed their activities of attacking the Maratha territory. The English President did not like the depredations committed by the Sidis by attacking their territory, murdering and plundering their subjects. The Sidi also captured one of the Maratha gallivats<sup>16</sup>. Thereupon, the Marathas captured one of the Sidis gallivats. This retaliation was brought to the notice of the Sidis by the President<sup>17</sup>. While the matters stood thus, Sidi Ibrahim died on 15th September 1762 and Sidi Yakut succeeded on 3rd October 1762<sup>18</sup>. The Sidi's outrage on the Marathas territory continued. On 17th July 1762<sup>19</sup> and 3rd August 1763<sup>20</sup>, the Sidis attacked a few villages and burnt and looted them. They also ravaged the territory in the vicinity of Raigad. So the Peshwa deputed Shankaraji Keshav Phadke to attack the territory of the Sidis and put an end to their depredations<sup>21</sup>. During the next three years,



attacks and counter-attacks on each others territory continued. During 1766-67, Peshwa Madhavrao sent certain proposals to the Sidis for a settlement<sup>22</sup>. It seems that these attempts failed and the war had to be renewed. The English as usual assisted Sidi Yakut and sent ships to his help. They feared that if Abdul Rahim, the claimant for the Sidi's Mansad who was supported by the Marathas was successful, the Marathas would soon get possession of Janjira<sup>23</sup>.

The English saw twenty-five Maratha gallivats cruising off Consa fort<sup>24</sup>. Therefore, the English tried to dissuade Sidi Abdul Rahim from siding with the Marathas. The aim of the English was to prevail upon Sidi Abdul Rahim to come to terms with Sidi Yakut<sup>25</sup>. Abdul Rahim refused to yield<sup>26</sup>. Thereupon, Captain John Hopkin attacked Abdul Rahim on 22nd November 1767. Abdul Rahim made such a vigorous counter attack that the English ran away. To retrieve their position, the English President sent reinforcement with the ship 'Worcester' to Janjira with Major John Gouin<sup>28</sup>. On 1st December 1767, the English launched a vigorous attack and defeated Sidi Abdul Rahim<sup>29</sup>, who fled and sought protection in the Maratha territory<sup>30</sup>. On behalf of Sidi Abdul Rahim, the Maratha General approached the English President for a settlement<sup>31</sup>. The English, therefore, made an attempt to bring settlement between Sidi Yakut and Sidi Abdul Rahim. But the settlement could not be arrived at as neither party was ready to give in<sup>32</sup>. Thus a stalemate continued thereafter for a year and a half.

In December 1769, Raghuji Angre with his fleet and with the help of the Peshwa's force attacked Madgad and captured it<sup>33</sup> and handed it over to Abdul Rahim on 18th December 1769<sup>34</sup>. On hearing this, Sidi Yakut besieged Madgad<sup>35</sup>. The Peshwa sent reinforcement to relieve Madgad<sup>36</sup>. Thereafter Sidi Yakut raised the siege. Peshwa Madhavrao protested to the English for helping the Sidi against the Marathas, pointing out that the Marathas did not allow the Dutch to establish a factory at Rajapur because of the English opposition to it. The President said that as long as Salsette would remain with the Marathas, the English would have to depend on the Sidis territory for provisions and protect them<sup>37</sup>. Thereafter the Peshwa decided to attack Sidi Yakut. The Maratha force in Konkan was joined by Sidi Abdul Ibrahim<sup>38</sup>. The skirmishes between the Maratha forces and the Sidi took place at three places at different dates. Neither side gained anything. Hence both the sides came to a settlement on 26th February 1772<sup>39</sup>. It was agreed that out of 11 Mahals, 5 1/2 were to belong to the Peshwa and 5 1/2 were to belong to the Sidis and that each should manage his own portion as before<sup>40</sup>. Sidi Yakut and Sidi Rahim had also settled their differences by which it was agreed, that Sidi Abdul Rahim should manage the Subha of Rajapuri<sup>41</sup>. But in July 1772, Sidi Abdul Rahim staged a successful coup and himself ascended the Mansad on 29th July 1772<sup>42</sup>. Mostyn arrived at Poona in October 1772, voiced his concern over the coup as he did not like Sidi Abdul Rahim's action in seizing Mansad, without consulting the English. He told the Poona government on 17th October 1772, that during the war with the Sidis





by the Marathas, the English would stand by the Sidis and preserve Janjira for them<sup>43</sup>. In 1777, St. Lubin, the envoy of the king of France, arrived at the court of the Peshwa for the purpose of drawing up an agreement with the Marathas for joint action against the English<sup>44</sup> and the Sidis<sup>45</sup> of Janjira. But it seems that the French did not act according to the agreement.

The Sidis continued their policy of harassing the Marathas. In 1781-82, the Sidis looted the neighbouring area. The Marathas attacked the Sidi's out-post at Nadvipurar and brought the brothers of the Thanedar as prisoners to Raigad<sup>46</sup>. These prisoners were later released<sup>47</sup>. Sidi Abdul Rahim and Sidi Yakut died in the year 1784. So Sidi Johar the commandant of Janjira fort seized the Chieftanship<sup>48</sup>. So Balu Mian, the younger brother and the successor of Sidi Abdul Rahim, approached the English for protection. But the English remained neutral in this matter<sup>49</sup>. Thereafter Balu Mian had approached the Marathas for help and protection, which was assured by the Poona government<sup>50</sup>.

Balu Mian had approached the Marathas for help and protection which was assured by the Poona government. This matter was brought to the notice of the fort Victoria resident to Bombay company. Thereupon, the company decided to give asylum to Sidi Zamrud in British territory<sup>51</sup>. The commercial activities alone brought the English to take an active part in the doings of the Sidis. The Sidis were eliminated as a political power by the Marathas and the English at the end of the 18th century. So their activities do not occupy a very large space in the records.

### **BRITISH OFFENSIVE IN THE KONKAN**

After the disaster at Panipat, the way in which the Peshwa Madhavrao consolidated his power created a fear in the minds of the English. In case the Marathas joined Haider Ali and the Nizam against their protege, the Nawab of Karnatak, their own position on the Coromondal coast was likely to be exposed to serious danger<sup>52</sup>. In order not to allow such an alliance to take shape, Mostyn was sent to Poona in 1769 as an envoy by the Bombay government for fermenting domestic dissensions in the Maratha state<sup>53</sup>. That would keep the Maratha entangled among themselves and this would give an opportunity to the English to achieve their objectives of achieving of acquiring Salsette and other places on the Bombay coast. Soon Raghunatrao gave this opportunity by seeking British help.

Raghuji was more cautious than other Angres in his raids on trading ships and was a good ruler and did much to improve his territory by free grants of salt pans at Ceol, Akasi, Thal and other coastal villages. Forbes, who visited Alibag in 1771 found Raghuji living in the island fort of Kolaba, though his palace, treasury, stables and gardens were on the main land on Alibag. He was a man of comely person, pleasing countenance and princely manners. He paid the Peshwa a yearly tribute of Rs. Two lakhs and held his lands on military tenure furnishing a supply of troops<sup>54</sup>. The district seemed to be fairly prosperous. It was barren and rocky in parts but there were cultivated plains enlivened by a busy peasantry. There were many travellers and droves of oxen. The valley of the

Cheul river between the Kolaba and Roha was populous and cultivated. Alibag was also pleasant and well tilled<sup>55</sup>.

Raghuji Angre had very amicable relations with the Peshwa. During the marriage ceremony of Peshwa Madhavrao, Raghuji was entrusted the job of welcoming the guests coming to attend the Peshwa's marriage ceremony.

Due to these amicable and peaceful relations of Raghuji with the Peshwa government, Raghuji had time to look into the affairs of his kingdom. He set up a mint in his kingdom and minted Alibagi rupees. He also established Jakat nakas at Mandave, Shribag Peth, Ramnath and Sambari and increased the revenue of the state. So he also encouraged commerce and free trade in the Angrian state, new laws were enacted to encourage trade and commerce. New sanads were granted in place of old to the deserving and loyal residents who worked for the welfare of the state. Survey of all kinds of land were undertaken and assessment rates were fixed. Justice courts were established to give justice to the needy. He also established some pathshalas and rest houses for travellers<sup>56</sup>.

#### **RAGHUJI ANGRE AND NARAYANRAO PESHWA :**

Raghuji Angre of Kolaba had come to Poona and called on Narayanrao Peshwa. The latter had to pay a return visit which he fixed for the morning of Monday 30th August 1773. Accompanied by Hari Pant Phadke Narayanrao, rode to Angre's residence outside the city at about ten in the morning. During their conversation,

Raghuji drew the Peshwa's attention to the crop of rumours, he had been hearing and cautioned him to be on his guard against danger to his life<sup>57</sup>. On the same evening, Narayanrao Peshwa was murdered by the Gardhis.

### **IMPOSTER OF SADOBA IN THE KONKAN**

Sadashivrao Bhau died in the battle of Panipat in 1761. During Peshwa Madhavrao's regime a person assumed the name of Sadashivrao Bhau and started creating disturbances for assuming Peshwaship. He was captured and lodged in the fort of Ahmednagar, as a prisoner. He was often transferred from place to place to avoid complicity with the sentries of the fort. While he was at Ratnagiri fort as a prisoner, he convinced Subha Ramchandra Naik Paranjape (incharge of the fort of Ratnagiri) that he was the real Sadashivrao Bhau. Naik Paranjape believed in the imposter and released him in March 1776. After release he pretended to be the first great Sadashivrao Bhau. He was also mis-identified as proper Sadashivrao Bhau by thousands of people, who joined him in his mission of capturing Poona<sup>58</sup>. Soon the pretender raised an army of 18,000 men, consisting largely of Raghunatrao's adherents and succeeded in capturing the forts of Suvarnadurg and Deogad<sup>59</sup>. Maratha naval commandant Dhulup gave him the charge of the Maratha navy.

Many of the Poona officials of north Konkan and Maratha sardars Hari Pant Bhaskar Patwardhan Ichalkaranjkar, Venkatrao Ghorpade and others were in collusion with him. He also asked



the help of the English of Bombay (Sec & Pol. D.D. No.17)(pp. 453-469) and deputed his emissary to Raghunatrao (Khare 2 1889).

The rebel collected a large following consisting partly of Raghunatrao's adherents and partly of those who for one reason or another bore a grudge against the existing government. He himself never crossed the mountain barrier from the Konkan, up the Ghats, but a few of his followers who ventured to proceed as far as Sinhagad were completely defeated by Haripant, when their leader Ramchandra Paranjpe's son was killed. (NHM III p.60). The pretender fled to Badlapur and his army deserted him. He went to Ghodbunder which was in the British territory, but he was not received. Then he arrived at Thal in the Angre's territory and sent a Karkun to Raghuji Angre and derived that Raghuji should carry him to Poona. Raghuji therefore went to him and brought him to Kolaba. He requested Raghuji to carry him to Bombay. But when Raghuji came to know that Poona army had come to Pen, Nagothana had a conference with ministerial officers. Raghuji had also informed the Bombay Government about the seizure of the pretender Sadashivrao. Thereupon, they (English) sent two deputies to Raghuji to send the pretender to Bombay, if not, there would be a war. The English of Bombay had also prepared boats. But Raghuji told them that he would carry the pretender to Poona to Sawai Madhavrao Pandit Pradhan early in November, 1776. Accordingly Raghuji Angre delivered a pretender to Mahadji Shinde who arrived then to Kolaba. The rebel followers were easily dispersed by Panse below the Bhor Ghat. Mahadji and Raghuji



brought the prisoner with his helpmate under the strict guard to Poona by the route of Talegaon. A council of eminent men of Poona, including Ramshastri, Hari Pant, Krishna Rao Kale, Babuji Naik with several merchants and citizens of Poona sat for a week trying the offender and recording descriptions. He narrated the story of his early life and later activities, giving out the names of those who led him into the foul plan. He was pronounced guilty and sentenced to death. He was put to death on the afternoon of 8th December 1776 (NHM III p.60).

The Angria family followed the general example and in 1788 seized and carried into their harbour of Kolaba the Chincester. After detaining it the ship was released on the grounds of the Bombay governments remonstrances. Captain Blake, the ship's commander, estimated his loss by detention at Rs.20,000/-<sup>60</sup>.

In the same year and in 1789 another complaint was made against the Angre, first for plundering a Pattamar boat from Tellichery and secondly for detaining a Craft of Timber appertaining to Captain Moss. When questioned, the Angre pointed that it was wholly seized by the Peshwa's manager at Underi, a place on the limits of his Taluka<sup>61</sup>. However, since the year 1792, all the pirates had particularly distinguished themselves in the most unreserved and audacious attacks on the British ships from time to time<sup>62</sup>.

In 1792, the Angre's fleet seized a Botella called the Ruparel appertaining to Rottenjee Bomanjee, valued at Rs.14,092.2.0 and also a 'Shyber' or Boat cargo belonging to Govaljee Treecumjee. The

Angre refused to restore the cargo valued by the owners but sent back the vessels to Bombay as a special case<sup>63</sup>.

In the same year 1792, the Gallivats belonging to Kolhapur Raja stood charged with plundering the ship Harvit of Captain Stockhouse, of goods amounting to Rs.8,432, six thousand more from several other European and native traders<sup>64</sup>.

The Bhosale also joined these successful depredations by his neighbour, the Kolhapur Raja. In the beginning of the year 1793, his fleet carried into Redy harbour, the ship Myrllie from Bengal. It was detained and goods to the value of Rs.19,615 were plundered. In 1764, the Raja of Kolhapur, made some more attempts to negotiate with the Bombay government, by deputing his Vakil and principal minister called Nagojirao. They tendered Raja's apology for not fulfilling his former engagement owing to the trouble in his countries. These envoys expressed Raja's desire to be under the company's protection. The Vakil also spoke of the Raja's intention to cede to the company newly acquired territory from the Patwardhan as security for liquidating Company's claim on him. The Raja also desired to have an English gentleman reside at his Darbar. The Bombay government referred this matter to the Supreme Government for decision with their opinion in the matter saying "that the Raja has in all his negotiations, acted with so much perfidy that no faith can be put in his promises<sup>65</sup>.

Again, in April 1795, the Bombay government received letters from the Raja of Kolhapur, expressing his wish to be on friendly

terms with the Bombay government and expressed his regret for not complying with the communications made by him. But soon afterwards, in May of the same year, reports were received that the Raja's armed vessels were continuing their sea-robberies. In December 1795, they seized a ship containing Luit. Moulgomereie's purchase for the Madras Cavalry; so the English demanded compensation for the loss; this demand was repeated by the governor in January 1796<sup>67</sup>. Thereupon the Raja suggested that the English should send one cruiser down to bring up his minister Nagojirao, who would be commissioned to set up everything. From the past experience, and from the Raja's correspondence, the Company had reason to believe, that all the Raja's proposals or rather those of his ministers had no other object and tendency, but to evade and procrastinate the day of account. So when the English did not accede to Raja's request, Kolhapur pirates captured another boat laden with horses for the carnatic cavalry and also seized several other ships having the Company's pass. The whole sum of unsatisfied private or personal claims from the company against the said Raja amounted to Rupees 358,068.3.90 whilst the Company's own had accumulated with interest to 918,614.3.07. Thus the treaty of November 1792 was violated by the Raja which was considered as no longer in force<sup>68</sup>.

The Bombay company's claims against the aggressions of Angre during 1793, related to a float of timber belonging to Purshottam, a native of Bombay. His float was consumed by fire in a dispute between late Raghuji Angre and the Peshwa's officers.

The Angre pleaded that as the goods on board belonged to the subject of the Peshwas, they had a right to make reprisals<sup>69</sup>. In 1794, a complaint, was made by two Tandels of having their boat plundered by Angre's cruisers. In January 1795, the Bombay government made a claim on the Angrian state and asked them to deliver the articles to the estimated value of Rs.12,000/- saved<sup>69</sup> from a boat belonging to Tulsey Dadajee that he had been driven on the rocks on that part of the coast, by stress of weather. The Angre evaded the payment stating that nothing had been saved. In June of the same year, the Angrian armed vessels carried into Kolaba, the English "Brig. Bassein". Its captain belonging to the naval force was for some time detained in confinement. A part of the cargo of that vessel which suffered by plunder was to the value of Rs.12,340/-. At the request of the Bombay government, the vessel and people were released with residue of the cargo<sup>70</sup>.

The points thus at issues relating to the Botellas and Basseins Cargoes were referred to the resident at Poona. Thereupon, Nana Phadnis, the then minister in authority at Poona, proposed that such part of the "Basseins Cargoes" as remained unrestored should be paid for, in time agreeably to the value and added that a negotiation was on foot with the owner of the Botella in Bombay; from whom a satisfactory reply was awaited. But these plans, being deemed evasive, Calcutta government instructed and authorised the Bombay government in February 1795 to avail themselves of the first favourable opportunity to exact compensation for their loss<sup>71</sup>.

The occasional excess committed by the Peshwa's own fleet at Gheria up to the end of 1792 were previously explained. In 1793 its naval commander, Anandrao Dhulap captured the Grab Sadee under a Bengal pass. After several month's negotiations, it was released but without indemnification for the plunder of part of the cargo<sup>72</sup>.

In December 1795, Anandrao Dhulap captured the vessel belonging to Purshottam Nathoodas on the plea that her dimensions and descriptions in point of guns and men, did not correspond with the particulars specified in the English pass. After several letters between Bombay President and Anandrao, the latter released the vessel in May 1796, but detained the cargo on the plea of having made a report of the case to Poona<sup>73</sup>.

In February 1796, the same Anandrao made a similar exceptional capture of a Pattamar boat, belonging to Sheikh Hussayne, but released her in May 1796, on receipt of a letter from the Bombay President<sup>74</sup>.

Meanwhile, in the month of April 1796, he made a still more exceptional seizure of the ghurab Ebram Salee navigating under an English pass. The new administration at Poona appeared to have promised the release of both the above mentioned undue seizures. Yet the accomplishment remained unperformed. These complaints were taken up by the English at Poona with the Poona government to seek redress and to achieve safety of the ships for carrying trade<sup>75</sup>.



In May 1796, on the instructions from the Supreme government, the Bombay government proposed to have discussion on the outstanding objects with the Rani of Angrian state, with the motive of bringing peaceful adjustment with the small state. Accordingly, Lieutt. Wilson, the Governor aid de camp and the Persian translator to Bombay government, paid a visit to the Angrian Rani at her capital of Kolaba and entered into a full discussion on the several claims on their part for the detention and plunder of ships and boats from the year 1788 to 1796. In the discussions, between Lieutenant Wilson and Bhasker Pundit (the minister of Angre's widow) the latter stated that whatever articles were cast on the shore of the Angrian districts, during their distresses, were considered as belonging to the State. He also expressed his government's anxiety to Lieutenant Wilson to enter into a direct treaty with the English, which would effectually affect put a stop to all such marauding on the part of her fleet on time to come<sup>76</sup>.

But to proceed to the other claims, the Rani acquiesced in paying Rs.9,000/- for the "Ruparel Bottella" and her cargo, but she positively refused making any payment for the "Shybar" of Trecumjee, pointing out that there were no goods in the "Shybar" when the fleet was captured from the Coolies<sup>77</sup>. The Rani next refused to pay for the three hundred pieces of timber of Purshottamjee, which had floated into Angre's districts, on the plea that were partly seized and partly burnt by the people of the Peshwa. She also refused to make any payment on account of the seizure of "Bhagwan Calla" and "Govindjee boat" as they were not

inhabitants of Bombay, but of the Peshwa's country<sup>78</sup>. She also refused to accept the next claim on behalf of the heirs of Toolsey Woodajee for the articles seized on from hos Botella, in January 1795 which was stranded near the island of Kenery. The Rani declared that nothing was justly due from her on that account as Premchund, the Gomastta of Toolsey, had come and taken away such of the articles as were saved and he thought worth transporting<sup>79</sup>.

Lastly Lt. Wilson lodged a complaint to the Rani in respect of the outrages committed on the Brig. Bassein, commanded by a captain force. The Rani said that on finding that vessel to be really English property, she had released, the "Bassein" and sent it to Bombay. Lt. Wilson agreed to receive Rs.2000/- against the damage claimed by its captain, finding that it was all he could get. Wilson agreed to accept Rs.2000/- as an indemnification for the said claim<sup>80</sup>.

After termination of the discussion between the Rani and Lieutenant Wilson, the latter told her that he was by no means satisfied by her answers and expressed his resentment. To all this she replied that she had gone every possible length to satisfy him, but that she could not acquiesce any responsibility for the claims not fairly made against her. At the same time, she professed her earnest desire to remain in amity with the Bombay government, declaring that she considered herself and her children as appertaining to the English government. She also expressed her wish to station

a Vakil on her behalf at Bombay who would, she observed, be answerable for the propriety of her conduct<sup>81</sup>.

When Lt. Wilson demanded payment of the entire sum, thus agreed to be paid, amounting altogether to Rs.17,500/-, the Rani and her minister expressed their inability to pay the amount as there was no ready money in the treasury. Therefore, the Rani returned a promissory note of that amount to the English. She requested them not to send a force against her fleet or capital of Kolaba<sup>82</sup>. At this time the general survey and assessment of the Konkan was proposed by Nana Phadnis. But it did not materialise due to the accession of Bajirao II to the Peshwaship<sup>83</sup>.

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## **CHAPTER VII**

### **MANAJI & BABURAO ANGRE (1794 to 1817 A.D.)**

Before narrating Manaji Angre's accession to Angre's Gadi of Kolaba, let us take a brief review of happenings of important events in the Maratha state. The most important event was the murder of Peshwa Narayanrao in 1773. Raghoba, uncle of Peshwa was imprisoned by Peshwa Narayanrao and put in custody. Raghoba's partisans in the Darbar formed a conspiracy to release their patron from the confinement in the Peshwa's palace, and put him on the Gadi. Gardis who were guarding palace were taken into confidence and work of arresting the Peshwa was entrusted to them. On 30th August 1773, the infantry Guards (Gardis) surrounded the palace, demanding their arrears, broke into the Peshwa's chamber and cut him up as he was imploring his uncle to save his life. Raghoba was privy to the secret design of seizing his nephew but denied complicity in his murder.

The horrid act was universally detested and roused against him popular resentment which expressed itself in the formation of the league of Barbhais. The chief Sardars at the Peshwa's Court, Sakharam Bapu Bokil, Trimbakrao Pethe, Nana Phadnis and others banded themselves into a confederacy to frustrate Raghoba's ambition. By the end of the year the plot was ripe and the confederates raised the standard of revolt declaring Raghoba a

murderer and user and calling upon all to withhold co-operation from him. Raghoba soon became a fugitive and in a desperate moment turned to the English of Bombay for arm aid to recover his Peshwaship. The Bombay Government gladly extended their help to Raghoba with a view to subordinate the Maratha power to its own. The Bombay Government sent its army to beat ministerial opposition and reinstate its ally in authority. Thus began *the first* Anglo-Maratha war which was fought with bitterness on both sides and which strained the resources of both. At the end, the Maratha state emerged from the struggle bruised but not broken and the treaty of Salbye concluded in May 1782, gave it a respite of twenty years to put its own house in order.

Although the result of the eight years war was favourable to the Marathas, it drained the Peshwa's treasure as never before. The huge debt incurred by the ministry for war expenses threatened the Poona Court with bankruptcy. The minority of the Peshwa and the difficulties that surrounded him on all sides encouraged the feudatories to effect greater freedom. They began managing their jagirs as independent states owing but nominal allegiance to the Peshwa. Shinde, Holkar, Bhosale, Gaikwad though part of an organic structure became in practice separate entities and each began to drift as they thought best, Kulabkar Angre and the Patwardhans were not exception to this evolution. After 1782, though the Peshwa's ceremonial precedence over his feudatories continued as before, he had little control over their internal affairs. Peshwa's authority ceased to be limited to the province, directly held by him.



The feudatories carried out his mandate or defied them as it suited their interest. The feudal tendency among the Marathas rose its head and finally they could not resist British aggression in the south.

Now, let us return to the affairs of the coast. In March 1782, the Salbye was concluded but the cession of Salsette Elphanta, Karaja and Hog Island to the English finally confirmed<sup>1</sup>. In the same year the Marathas had gradually taken from the Jawhar Raja, the greater part of his territories, confined him in the possession of the small remainder which he held even after the fall of the Marathas<sup>2</sup>.

In 1783-84, a dispute the Maratha state had with the Pant Pratinidhi of Vishalgad about the Districts near Ratnagiri held by them jointly was settled by a treaty. These Districts included a considerable part of the Sangameshwar, Ratnagiri and Rajapur subdivisions, the Peshwa's subhedar at Ratnagiri being the chief authority of that government.

The piracy on the western coast still flourished. In 1765 the piracies on the western coast of Vijayadurg induced the Bombay Government to send a force to Malwan of the Kolhapur authorities and Rairir Redi of the Sawants. From Malwan and Redi, the piratical activities molested the British trading vessels. The English had written many letters asking the chiefs of Kolhapur and Sawantwadi to stop the nuisance; therefore the English fleet headed by Major Gordon and captain Watson was deputed to capture fort Redi and within three days it captured the fort on 9th March 1765. The Hon.

Company entered into a treaty with the Bhosales on 7th April 1765<sup>3</sup>. The name of Sindudurg fort was changed from Sindhudurg to Fort Augustus, but in the beginning of the following year, the place was restored on payment of Rs. 3,60,000<sup>4</sup>. The Sawant could not fulfil the terms of treaty that took place between the English and Sawant. Therefore, the Bombay Government got mortgaged Vengurla and villages round about from Sawant for 13 years for Rs. 80,000. Till 1750 Sawant could not clear the English debt, so the Bombay Government refused to restore it to Sawant. The Peshwa also had another fleet under the Sarsubhedar of Bassain<sup>5</sup>. After 1775, his officer paid no respect even to English ships which they took it and restored if the capture was quickly and clearly proved against them. On account of these various piratical fleets, the coasting vessels not at this time ply without being conveyed by the Company's Vessles. Sixty or eighty of them generally sailed from Bombay to Surat under a convoy of one or two ships. In 1774, five or six Portuguese merchantmen sailed from Goa to Surat convoyed by a sixty-four gun ship, but were attacked by the Marathas, the frigate put to fight, and the rest taken into Gheria<sup>6</sup>. In 1780, a ship carrying despatches from the Court of Directors was taken off the coast and carried to Vijaydurg and officer sent to Rasalgad, one of the Konkan forts visible from Mahabaleswar. A more serious affairs took place in 1783 after peace had been concluded between the Bombay Government and the Marathas. The *Ranges*, a ship of the Bombay Marine, sailed from Bombay on April 5 with several military officers on board, on the 8th, when near Gheria; she was attacked by Dhulap, and after a fight of five hours,

was captured and taken into Gheria and Dhulap denied all knowledge of peace. Two officers were killed and three besides the Commander of the vessel wounded. Bombay Government did not receive any communication about this affairs from the survivors till May 23, when a letter of May 5 arrived<sup>7</sup>.

The prisoners were released on the 27th May and arrived in Bombay in the Ranger on the 29th May, she being too much disabled to proceed on her voyage. They had faith of the Poona Government was shown by Dhulap, having displayed in the presence of some of the officers the ornaments sent to him from Poona in honour of the achievement<sup>8</sup>.

The Angres who still held Kolaba, were dependent on the Peshwa, and Sidis retained their old independence but were allies of the English. In 1784, however the latter were the parties to an agreement by which the rightful heir to the throne who had been dispossessed by another of his family gave up all his rights in the Janjira territories to the Peshwa in exchange for an estate in Gujarat and he thus became Nawab of Sachin, and the alliance between Bombay and Janjira was dissolved. But the usurper was in point of fact never dispossessed and his descendants ruled Janjira thereafter<sup>9</sup>.

In 1777, the Malwan district was over run by the Kolhapur troops after the insurrection by the chief by Vishalgad and others and in 1782, there was another expedition in which the chiefs of Wadi were for a time subdued.



In 1786, however the disturbances took place and the Raja of Kolhapur himself took a large army commanded the beautiful and very fertile valley of Masura, Nivati, a well-known fort on the coast between Malwan and Vengurla and Vishalgad which commands the most level part of the southern Konkan. Sawant, on getting the assistances from Goa, evacuated Nivati and Vengurla but appointed Mamalatdars and other officials to the rest of the newly conquered territory<sup>10</sup>. Khem Sawant with the help of Shinde got the district restored in 1793. Malwan was however retained by Kolhapur. In 1792, the English made a peace treaty with Kolhapur by which the English were allowed to have a factory at the island of Malwan (Sindudurg) and to hoist their flag there till all claims were paid<sup>11</sup>. In May 1790, a force left Bombay to cooperate with the army which had just invaded Tippu Sultan's territory. It was disembarked at Sangameshwar, and after halting there five days marched up the Ambala Ghat. Although, there was artillery with it a second detachment went by the same route in the following November. The entrance to the river at Jayagad was at this time defended by forts on each side. The factory at Fort Victoria was found useful during this period. This was the resident purchased and received from Poona about 12 thousand bullocks and sent them down the coast for the use of the army. At this time, as a straggling town with several Portuguese Churches and a number of Christian inhabitants, it was garrisoned by a battalion of sepoy and a company of European artillery<sup>12</sup>.

In 1790, the Konkan in common with other parts of Western India was gripped with almost a famine<sup>13</sup>. Between 1771 and 1790 a survey and assessment in cash of a great large part of the Kalyan district was made by Sadashiv Keshav Sarsubhedar of the Konkan district and an assessment in grain of part of Kolaba district by a Subhedar of Rajapur in 1784-85<sup>14</sup>. But the general survey and assessment of the Konkan proposed by Nana Phadnis never went further.

After Manaji's death in 1756, Raghuji Angre his son, succeeded to the Sarkhelship. He paid the Peshwa a yearly tribute by Rs. 200,000 and held his land on military tenure furnishing a supply of troops. He frequently visited Poona, supported Nana Phadnis's schemes and took a keen interest in the welfare of the young Peshwa Sawai Madhavrao. Forbes, who visited Alibag in 1771, found Raghuji living in the island fort of Kolaba and found Alibag pleasant and well-tilled<sup>15</sup>. He remained faithful to the Peshwa and in 1777 handed over the imposter of Sadashivrao Bhau to Nana, inspite of the fact that the English wanted the imposter in their custody<sup>16</sup>. We have also seen that the English had lodged several complaints to Poona and with the Angre about the depredations committed by the Angre on the vessels of the merchants, on the high seas<sup>17</sup>.

Raghuji died in 1793 leaving two minor sons, Manaji and Kanhoji by his wife Anandibai, and another called Jaysing by his concubine<sup>18</sup>. The Peshwa Government bestowed Serkhelship on



infant Manaji and Jaysingh was allowed to act as his Karbhari during the latter's minority<sup>19</sup>. But Anandibai, jealous of Jaysingh's influence over her son, laid a plot for his destruction. In this Jaysinghrao's Karbhari, Balaji Pandurang was killed. Jaysingh was made captive and lodged in Kolaba. His partisans were captured and kept as prisoners at Khanderi. Jaysingh's wife Sakawarbai was also kept under house arrest. Sakawarbai surprisingly got herself released, went to Nagothana port and captured a fortress. From there she rose in open rebellion and started disturbances in the territory. Jaysingh also got himself released and went to Poona for getting protection.

Due to the war of succession between Jaysingh and Manaji, the administration remained in a confused condition. The Navy and Army men could not receive their salaries for some time. Therefore, in order to collect arrears of the pay they started looting the people in Kolaba. Thus riots broke out at Sribag Peth. But the loyal army quelled these riots ruthlessly and riotors' leaders were imprisoned and punished<sup>20</sup>.

The wife of Jaysingh also with a child left Nagothana and came to Cheul at the feet of Goddess Ekvira Bhawani<sup>21</sup>. On the 4th September 1796, Jaysingh and Nagoji Angre marched with two thousand men to capture Alibag. Due to heavy rains, the force could not make much advance. Therefore, Jaysingh made three divisions of his force. He himself headed one division and captured Alibag and keeping his people at Mandvi established check posts<sup>22</sup>.

On 13 September Jaysing captured fort Hirakot and planted his flag over it<sup>23</sup>. On the 11th he took into his possession Sagargad. His wife joined him at Hirakot<sup>24</sup>. On 22nd September Fort Khanderi came into his possession. There, Jaysing met his officers<sup>25</sup>. On 10th November 1796, Karbhari of Jaysing got hurt by the cannon ball and on 14th November 1796, he died of it<sup>26</sup>. On 16th December 1796, Jaysing defeated rival army near Cheul<sup>27</sup>. Thereafter, Manaji with a few followers fled to Mahad and Anandibai died of frustration<sup>28</sup>.

Hearing that the Peshwa had promised to help Manaji, Jaysing applied for aid to Baburao who was Shinde's Commander in Chief. Baburao Angre was relation of Jaysingh. Baburao thought of gaining possession of Angre's affairs and at once consented to the proposal of Jaysingh. Before going to Alibag, he arranged through Shinde that any attempt of his to gain possession of Kolaba would have the Peshwa's support<sup>29</sup>.

With this understanding Baburao Angre got out for Alibag with five to seven hundred men and halted at Revdanda near the house of Madhavrao Phadke on 22nd January 1797<sup>30</sup>. Thereafter, on 13th February 1797 a battle between Jaysing and Baburao took place on the sea-shore between Akas and Sekhar in which Baburao was defeated<sup>31</sup>. Moreover, Jaysingrao and Manaji met each other at Kolaba on 6th March 1797<sup>32</sup>. But they could not arrive at an amicable settlement. In the meantime Jaysing came to know that Nagoji Angre became a treacherous insurgent and therefore, he was

murdered by Jaysing on 19th August 1797. After four months, Daulatrao Shinde despatched his general Haripant Bhave, with guns and four hundred horses for Baburao's help for capturing Kolaba. The force started from Poona and came to halt at Khandala<sup>33</sup>. After coming to Alibag with this force Baburao laid siege to Hirakot the abode of Jaysing<sup>34</sup>. After some days Jaysing quietly escaped from the fort during night hours and by swimming the creek came to Kolaba. Baburao took the fort of Hirakot and treacherously seized Manaji, Kanhoji and Jaysing<sup>35</sup>. Sakwarbai Angre, wife of Jaysing, once more came to her husband's help and captured the fort of Khanderi. In 1799, Manaji and Kanhoji had fled to Poona returned with few followers. Baburao besieged Khanderi. A battle ensued and Baburao had to lose some men<sup>36</sup>. Again the battle took place between the forces of Baburao and that of Manaji and Kanhoji at Cheul and at Nagothana. At both places, Kanhoji and his brother Manaji were defeated and taken prisoners. Baburao, who was now the undisputed master, was invested with the Chiefship by the Peshwa Bajirao II. Soon after, Baburao captured the forts of Kolaba, Hirakot, Sagargad and Manikgad; except Khanderi<sup>37</sup>. But when he failed to capture Khanderi by assault from Jaysing's wife he promised to set Jaysing free if Sakwarbai gave the fort. Thereupon, Khanderi was handed over but instead releasing Jaysing, Baburao put him to death and threw his wife and children into prison. Jaysing's eldest son escaped to Bombay<sup>38</sup>. On 20th December 1799, Baburao Angre was invested with robes of Sarkhel at Kolaba<sup>39</sup>.

### AFFAIRS BETWEEN THE ENGLISH AND THE ANGRE

The Angrian family followed the general example and in 1788 seized and carried into their harbour of Colaba the 'Chichester'. After detaining it the ship was released on the ground of the Bombay Government's remonstrances. Captain Blake, her Commander, estimated his loss due to detention at Rs. 20,300<sup>40</sup>.

In the same year and in 1789, another complaint was made against the Angre, first for plundering a Pattamar Boat from Tellicherry and secondly for detaining a Craft of Timber appertaining to Captain Moss. When questioned the Angre, pointed out that it was wholly seized by the Peshwa's Manager at Underi a place on the limits of his Taluka<sup>41</sup>. However, since the year 1792, all the pirates had particularly distinguished themselves in the most unreserved and audacious attacks on the English ships and vessels from time to time<sup>42</sup>.

In 1792, the Angre's fleet seized a Botella, called 'the Ruparel' appertaining to Rottenjee Bomanjee, valued at Rs. 14,092.2.0 and also a 'Shyber' or Boat Cargo belonging to Govaljee Treecumjee. The Angre refused to restore the Cargo valued by the owners but sent back the vessels to Bombay as a special case<sup>43</sup>.

Again, in April 1795, the Bombay Government received letters from the Raja of Kolhapur expressing his wish to be on friendly terms with the Bombay Government and expressed his regret for not complying with the communications made by him. But soon afterwards viz. in May of the same year, reports were received that





the Raja's armed vessels were continuing their sea robberies<sup>44</sup>. In December 1795 they seized a ship containing Liutt. Moulgomerie's purchases for the Madras Cavalry; so the English demanded compensation for the loss. This demand was repeated by the Governor in January 1796<sup>45</sup>. Thereupon, the Raja of Kolhapur suggested that the English should send one Cruizer down to bring up his Minister Nagoojee, who would be commissioned to settle every thing. From the past experience and from Raja's correspondence, the company had reason to believe that all the Raja's proposals or rather those of his Minister had no other object and tendency but to evade and procrastinate the day of account. So, when the English did not accede to Raja's request Kolhapur pirates captured another boat similarly laden with horses for the Carnatic Cavalry; and also seized the several other ships having the Company's pass. The whole sum of unsatisfied private or personal claims from the Company against the said Raja amounted to Rupees 358,068.3.90 whilst the Company's own had accumulated with interest to Rupees 918,614.3.07. Thus the Treaty of November 1792 was violated by the Raja which was considered as no longer in force<sup>46</sup>.

The Bombay Company's claims against the aggressions of Angre during 1793 related to a float of timber belonging to Purushottam, a native of Bombay. His float was consumed by fire in a dispute between late Raghuji Angre and the Peshwa's officers. The Angre pleaded that as the goods on board belonged to the subject of the Peshwas, they had a right to make reprisals<sup>47</sup>. In



1794, a complaint was made by two Tandels of having their Boat plundered by the Angres' Cruizers. In January 1795, the Bombay Government made a claim on the Angrian State and asked them to deliver the articles; to the estimated value of Rs. 12,000 saved from a boat belonging to Tulsey Oadajee that had been driven on the rocks on that part of the Coast, by stress of weather. The Angre evaded the payment stating that nothing had been saved<sup>48</sup>. In June of same year, the Angrian armed vessels carried into Kolaba the English 'Brig. Bassein'. Its Captain belonging to the naval force, was for some time detained in confinement. A part of the cargo of that vessel which suffered by plunder was to the value of Rs. 12,340. At the request of Bombay Government, the vessel and people were released with the residue of the Cargo<sup>49</sup>.

The points thus at issue relating to the Botellas and 'Bassain's Cargoes' were referred to the Resident at Poona. Thereupon, Nana Phadnis, the then Minister in authority at Poona, proposed that such part of the "Bassein's Cargoes" as remained unrestored should be paid for, in time, agreeably to the value and added that a negotiation was on foot with the owner of the Bottella in Bombay; from whom a satisfactory reply was awaited. But these pleas being deemed evasive, Calcutta Government instructed and authorised the Bombay Government in February 1795 to avail themselves of the first favourable opportunity to extract compensation for their loss<sup>50</sup>.

The occasional excess committed by the Peshwa's own fleet at Gheria up to the end of 1792 were previously explained. In 1793

it's Naval Commander Anandrao Dhulap captured the Ghurab 'Sadee' under a Bengal Pass. After several months' negotiations it was released but without indemnification for the plunder of part of the Cargo<sup>51</sup>.

In December 1795, Anandrao Dhulap captured the vessel belonging to Purshotam Nathoodas on the plea that her dimensions and descriptions in point of guns and men, did not correspond with the particulars specified in the English Pass. After several letters between Bombay President and Anandrao, the latter released the vessel in May 1796, but detained the Cargo on plea of having made a report of the case to Poona<sup>52</sup>.

In February 1796, the same Anandrao made a similar exceptionable capture of the Pattamar Boat belonging to Sheikh Hussayne; but released her in May on receipt of a letter from the Bombay President<sup>53</sup>.

Meanwhile, in the month of April 1796, he made a still more exceptionable seizure of the Ghurab 'Ebram Salee Sales' navigating under an English Pass. The new administration at Poona appeared to have promised the release of both the above mentioned under seizures. Yet, the accomplishment remained unperformed. These complaints were taken up by the English Resident at Poona Government to seek redress and to achieve safety of the ships for carrying trade<sup>54</sup>.

In May 1796, on the instructions from the Supreme Government, the Bombay Government proposed to have discussions

on the outstanding objects with the Rani of Angria State with the motive of bringing peaceable adjustment with that small State. Accordingly, Lieutt. Wilson, the Governor aid de camp and the persian Translator to Bombay Government paid a visit to the Angrian Rani at her capital of Kolaba and entered into a full discussion of the several claims on their part for the detention and plunder of ships and boats from the year 1788 to 1796. In the discussions between Lieutenant Wilson and Bhaskar Pundit (the Minister of Angre's widow) the latter stated that whatever articles were cast on the shore of the Angrian Districts during the distresses were considered as belonging to the State.

The Angre expressed his Government's anxiety to Lieutenant Wilson to enter into a direct treaty with the English, which would effectively put a stop to all such maraudings on the part of her fleet in time to come<sup>55</sup>.

But to proceed to the other claims, the Rani acquiesced in paying Rs. 9,000 for the "Ruparel Botella" and her Cargo but she positively refused making any payment for the 'Shybar' of Trecumjee, pointing out that there were no goods in the 'Shybar' when the fleet was recaptured from the Coolies<sup>56</sup>. The Rani next refused to pay for the 300 pieces of Timber of Purshotumjee, which had floated into Angre's Districts, on the plea that they were partly seized and partly burnt by the people of the Peshwa. She also refused to make any payment on account of the seizure of 'Bhagwan Calla' and "Govindjees" Boat as they were not inhabitants of

Bombay, but of the Peshwa's country<sup>57</sup>. She also refused to admit the next claim on behalf of the heirs of Toolsey Woodajee for the articles seized from his Botella, in January 1795, which was stranded near the Island of Khanderi. The Rani declared that nothing was justly due from her on that account as Premchand, the Gomastta of Toolsey, had come and taken away such of the articles as were saved and as he thought worth transporting<sup>58</sup>.

Lastly Lieut. Wilson lodged a complaint to the Rani in respect of the outrages committed on the Brig. Bassein; commanded by a Captain Force. The Rani said that on finding that vessel to be really English property she had released, the "Bassein" and sent it to Bombay. Lt. Wilson, agreed to receive Rs. 2,000 against the damages claimed by its captain finding that it was all he could get Wilson agreed to accept Rupees 2,000 as an indemnification for the said claim<sup>59</sup>.

After termination of the discussion between the Rani and Lieutenant Wilson, the latter told her that he was by no means satisfied replied that she had gone every possible length to satisfy him, but that she could not acquiesce any responsibility for claims not fairly made out against her. At the time, she professed her earnest desire to remain in amity with the Bombay Government declaring that she considered herself and her children as appertaining to the English Government. She also expressed here to station a wakil on her behalf at Bombay who would, she observed, be answerable for the propriety of her conduct<sup>60</sup>.

When Lt. Wilson demanded payment, of the entire sum thus agreed to be paid, amounting altogether Rupees 17,500, the Rani and her minister expressed their inability to pay the amount as there was no ready money in the treasury. Therefore, the Rani returned a promisory note of that amount to the English. She requested them not to send a force against either her fleet or capital of Kolaba<sup>61</sup>. At this time, the general survey and assessment of the Konkan was proposed by Nana Phadnis. But it did not materialise due to the accession of Bajirao II to the Peshwaship<sup>62</sup>.

Let us now turn to Bajirao II Peshwa's movements in Konkan which involved Angres also till Bajirao was restored to the Peshwaship by the English. On 4th December 1796, Aba Shelukar who had been sent to Satara, returned to Poona with clothes of investiture and the ceremony of elevating Bajirao II to the Peshwaship took place at Mid-night<sup>63</sup>.

Thus, Bajirao's Government was established. In the new administration Nana Phadnis became the Prime Minister. Nana did not take much interest in the administration. In the later half of 1798, conditions in the Maratha State deteriorated fast. Wars between the Kolhapur Raja and Patwardhans, Gokhale and also the Chhatrapati, raged in full fury. In October, 1798, an attempt was made by unknown assailants on the life of the Peshwa<sup>64</sup>.

In the field of foreign affairs also things threatened to take a serious turn with the advent of Wellesley and with his manifestly aggressive intentions.





The last phase of Nana's administration began from the end of 1798. He came to know the plot latched against him by Govindrao Kale and Sakharam Thate. They were arrested and the former was sent to Sinhgad and the latter to Konkan<sup>65</sup>. Thereafter, he avoided interfering in the affairs of the state as far as possible. In the year 1799 and 1800 nothing much important had happened except the death of Nana Phadnis on 13th March 1800<sup>66</sup>. Nana Phadnis's death did not improve Bajirao's position. On the contrary, Shinde's ambitions grip over the Poona administration was evident. He appointed Amritrao, Peshwa's step brother, as Peshwa's Karbhari in place of Nana Phadnis. In the meantime, Sarjerao Ghatge became Shinde's Prime Minister. After the death of Nana Phadnis Bajirao II took revenge on the persons who were Nana's partisans. Naropant Chakradeo, Bajaba Shiralekar, Raghopant Godbole and two more were imprisoned. They were dispatched to Raigad and Pratapgad under the guard of Balaji Kunjar for safe custody. The renowned Sardar Madhavrao Raste was also put under arrest on 10th October 1801 and sent to Raigad inspite of strong intention of the Karbharis for Raste's release<sup>67</sup>. Bajirao II arranged for Raste good food, his hair cut according to Raste's wish and ordered the Killedar to lookafter Raste's health<sup>68</sup>. But Raste's children who were in Government custody at fort Korigad escaped from the prison around, 15th November 1801. At this news, the Peshwa got frightened and issued orders for their capture. The Peshwa also wrote to Balaji Kunjar who was in charge of Taluka Raigad to that effect<sup>69</sup>. The Peshwa thought that the disturbances

and rebellions that flared up in different parts of Maharashtra was due to disruptive and subversive activities of the followers of Nana Phadnis. So he issued orders for the capture of 11 persons including four sons of Haripant Phadke, Morabadada Phadnis, Athavale of Madhavrao Raste and Bapu Phansalkar. All the 11 persons were lodged in the custody at Pali and Raigad<sup>70</sup>. Here the Peshwa sought the help of Angre.

During the latter half of 1800, the Peshwa was filled with anxiety because of increasingly widespread disturbances in the whole Maratha country. However, the English Resident at Poona had offered the Peshwa the proposal for a subsidiary alliance since July 1798<sup>71</sup>. It was renewed in 1799, after the war with Tipu was over. The negotiations were again commenced in April 1800<sup>72</sup>. But the events did not shape as the English expected and the negotiations were closed. Further negotiations were initiated by the Governor-General in June 1802, but they did not receive adequate response from the Peshwa until September<sup>73</sup>. In September 1802, Holkar, after defeating the Peshwa's troops, came near Poona. On the eve of the fateful battle of Hadapsar, the Peshwa himself had not entertained any sanguine hopes of success against Holkar<sup>74</sup>. So on 27th September, Bajirao established a Dak by deputing Swar and gardis, decided to run away with his retinue from Poona to Raigad<sup>75</sup>. On 8th October, the Peshwa sent Sawai Madhavrao Peshwa's wife Yashodabai, his own wife and wife of Chimaji Appa to Raigad immediately thereafter, Balaji Kunjar also sent his wife to Raigad<sup>76</sup>.

Before the commencement of battle on 25th October 1802 at Hadpasar, Bajirao had signed executed an instrument (Sanad) of cession for the proposed Jaidad in favour of the English and at the time of marching out for battle he sent it to Resident Col. Close with his adherent Raghunathrao Donde Bhagwat<sup>77</sup>. This instrument did not contain the names of any districts to be ceded but Governor General gave his consent to this instrument and delivered it to Resident Close on October 25, 1802. Thus, the Peshwa had in fact concluded a defensive alliance with the English Government<sup>78</sup>. Before leaving Poona in the direction of Konkan, Bajirao signed a declaration expressing his intention to seek asylum in the Company's territory, should Holkar send a force to the place where he would take refuge. This made very clear the intention of Bajirao to seek protection from the English Government<sup>79</sup>. Peshwa received Duncan, Governor of Bombay, at Bombay on November 4, 1802. On 25th October, Yashwantarao Holkar won victory against Shinde and the Peshwa's force at Hadapsar., None of Bajirao's chiefs lost their life, as they like him, ran away to a place of safety. Bajirao and Chimaji Appa proceeded towards Parvati from the battlefield but seeing Holkar's men arriving in pursuit Bajirao fled and came at the fort of Sinhgad<sup>80</sup>. On 27th October, Bajirao and Chimaji Appa fled from Sinhgad and came to Birwadi, a village in Mahad Taluka of Kolaba District. Both of them stayed at Birwadi from 29th October to 4th November 1802 with 2000-3000 force<sup>81</sup>. Alongwith Bajirao who fled from Poona included prominent persons such as Baloji Kunjar, Nimbaji Bhaskar, Daji Pant Deshmukh,

Yashwant and Bhivrao Panse artillery Incharge, Biniwale, Roopam Chaudhari, Manohargir Gosavi, Khanderao Raste, Balwantrao Nagnath. All these persons left Sinhgad and through Modhe ghat via Anna Chatra came to Mahad and thereafter reached Raigad. On 28th October, Holkar despatched his force of about 12,000 to 15,000 to seize fleeing Bajirao. Also he came to know the English were determined to prevent Peshwa's seizure by his forces. Holkar did not give up chasing Bajirao by his force in Konkan because of the threat of English interference<sup>82</sup>. At Birwadi Bajirao stayed in the big wada of Govind Joshi. The force accompanying him, went through the galls of Birwadi and looted the houses of the villagers and destroyed the grain fields<sup>83</sup>. On 30th October 1802, the Peshwa wrote from Birwadi<sup>84</sup>. The following letter to Jonathan Duncan, Governor of Bombay:- "My servants Holkar and his party are carrying intrigues and wrongs against me. Much alarmed at their base conduct I have resolved to seek an alliance with your Honour on condition that should any of these rebels demand my person, it should be positively denied. Nor L.C. your Honour tell me to go. Should this proposition meet with your approbation, you must make provision for my expenses. Also be pleased to furnish me large armed vessels in the harbour of Mahad. For further particulars on this head I refer your Honour to the bearer Naro Govind Avty"<sup>85</sup> with Holkar's men pursuing him, the Peshwa from Mahad went to Raigad and released Madhavrao Raste from the prison. Immediately on release, Madhavrao Raste took upon him the work of administering Raigad fort by setting aside the Havaidar of the fort<sup>86</sup>.

However Peshwa itinery does not show his halt at Raigad. It shows that the Peshwa was at place Mahad from 5th to 24th November 1802 (See Khobrekar Mukkam, p.438.) Afterwards, the Peshwa instructed Raste to go to Karnatak to guard against Holkar establishing his meaning in that part of the country<sup>87</sup>.

While the Peshwa was at Raigad Holkar's Sardar Haripant Bhave reached in the vicinity of Raigad on 22nd November 1802 with force of one thousand gardis<sup>88</sup>.

Immediately after Bhave Holkar sardar Meerkhan Pathan descended from the ghat with 4000-6000 force and was advancing to Mahad in pursuit of Bajirao<sup>89</sup>. This news alarmed Bajirao. He sent back a large part of his retinue 800 page force, Vinchurkar, Mane, Khajagiwale etc. to Poona. He kept Gopal Kunjar and Naroba Nana Avati with 400 men at Raigad<sup>90</sup> and himself proceeded with considerable force in a southern direction and halted at a small fort called Harnai on the sea side near Suvarnadurg<sup>91</sup>. But the arrival there of the troops of Holkar's Lieutenant Shahmat Khan Pathan forced him to leave that place. On 1st December 1802, the Peshwa boarded his own vessel while Herculean and Antelope, the British ships, proceeded with him as a convoy to that place<sup>92</sup>.

The British supplied a sum of two lakhs of rupees to Bajirao to meet his personal needs. Khanderao Raste; then the Peshwa's Chief Officer in Konkan; came and paid him his respects at Survarnadurg and helped him with his advice. To keep Bajirao in good humour the English Government instructed the English ships



and the local agent on the coast to honour Bajirao with salutes and gunfire. This was done to please Bajirao. The ship with Bajirao on board halted at his request at Revdanda for two days where Angres gave Bajirao salutes, gunfire, and reached Bassein on 6th December<sup>93</sup>. He was at that time in an extremely uncomfortable and, helpless state. Resident Close who had left Poona on 28th November came and met the Peshwa at Bassein on 7th December, 1802<sup>94</sup>.

As the news of the Peshwa's arrival at Bassein reached Poona, Amritrao promptly appointed Subha Killedar for Bassein. He was directed to proceed to Bassein without loss of time with detachment of cavalry, infantry with guns, with a view of seizing the Peshwa<sup>95</sup>. The English ascertained the new Subha Killedar of Bassein, Balwantrao Panse had descended the Ghat with his force and gave directions for their detachment at Ghodbandar to move to Bassein<sup>96</sup>. In the middle of December 1802, a force was sent by Holkar to Suvarnadurg. The Peshwa's Subhedar of that place was captured and sent to Poona<sup>97</sup>. The family of the Peshwa, left at Suvarnadurg, was removed to the town of Harnai and placed under the charge of Holkar's cavalry. They were later on escorted to Poona<sup>98</sup>.

The English came to know that the stationing of their detachment at Bassein was viewed by Holkar as an act of opposition. Therefore, the English detachment was ordered to be posted at Ghodbandar or Salsette from where it might be readily



conveyed across the water, as occasion might require, for the Peshwa's support. Accordingly, the English detachment occupied the position at Salsette and an armed vessel was stationed at Bassein with a view of affording further communications and security to Peshwa Bajirao II<sup>99</sup>. On 18th December, Resident Close had an interview with the Peshwa at which the proposal stipulations for a definitive treaty were fully descussed. The Peshwa, at the end, assented verbally to the stipulations contained in the draft of the treaty prepared by the English<sup>100</sup>. In the meantime, the Poona Council decided to give Amritrao's son Vinayakrao in adoption to Yashodabai and make him the Peshwa. But that lady was strictly confined by Bajirao at Raigad and Holkar's force failed to extricate and send her to Poona<sup>101</sup>.

Yashwantrao Holkar, apprised of what was passing at Bassein, offered to go there himself and meet the Peshwa all alone warning him against any unilateral commitment. Bajirao refused to see him<sup>102</sup>. However, the British felt that the Peshwa might proceed to Bharoch to join Shinde and feared that the proposed alliance might have, forever, slipped away from their hands. It was apparently at this stage that Resident Close threatended the Peshwa that the British would sign the alliance with Amritrao and Holkar; if the Peshwa refused to do so<sup>103</sup>. Thereupon most reluctantly, the Peshwa gave his consent to sign the treaty<sup>104</sup> as he did not want English to get an appportunity to conclude the alliance with Amritrao. This treaty was signed, sealed and delivered on 31st December 1802 late at night. This treaty gave the English government unquestionable

supremacy over the Maratha States and paved the way towards Indian Empire<sup>105</sup>. Its main stipulations were :-

- (1) The two contracting parties agree that the friends and the enemies of the one should be treated as the friends and the enemies of the other.
- (2) That the English should protect Bajirao's territory as their own.
- (3) For this purpose, a subsidiary force of not less than 6000 regular infantry with the usual proportion of field artillery, should be permanently stationed in Bajirao's dominions.
- (4) For the expenses of this force, Bajirao should cede to the English, districts yielding 26 lakhs of rupees a year.
- (5) The Peshwa was not to entertain in his service any European hostile to the English.
- (6) In case of a dispute arising with the Nizam, Bajirao should accept British arbitration.
- (7) Bajirao should also respect the treaty of friendship recently contracted by the Gaikwad with the English and accept British arbitration in case of a dispute.
- (8) The British and Bajirao should give each other more military help whenever necessary.
- (9) The Peshwa binds himself to engage in no hostilities with other states without a previous consultation with the British Government<sup>106</sup>. List of territories ceded to the British by the Peshwa is found in this Diary.

On conclusion of this treaty, Resident Close wrote to Holkar the English decision of taking the Peshwa to Poona and said "You have all along been friendly to the English power, do preserve that sentiment by quitting Poona"<sup>107</sup>. Thus Holkar was asked by the English to retire immediately to his own territory in Malwa. The English directed Colonel Murray to accompany Bajirao with his detachment to Poona via Kalyan which was still occupied by a party belonging to Amritrao<sup>108</sup>. Thereafter, General Wellesley was to regulate Bajirao's march to Poona<sup>109</sup>. Arthur Wellesley asked the Adjutant General of the Army to secure the march of the Peshwa from Bassein to Poona and to open the communication with the coast. Wellesley wanted to receive Bajirao in person below the Ghat<sup>110</sup>.

Bajirao, himself accompanied by Resident Close came to Poona on 13th March 1803. His restoration was celebrated by the English with every distinction of Military honour and public rejoining<sup>111</sup>. Thus the Peshwa bartered away the Maratha independence from Bassein.

### **BRITISH GAINS SOUTH KONKAN**

After the installation of Bajirao on the Peshwa's mansad, he started taking vengeance on the Maratha Chiefs, by ordering reduction in their armies. Bajirao sent his force against the Killedar of Suvarndurg, Hari Balhal Kerkar. But the Maratha force sustained a defeat from the Killedar. Thereafter, a small British force was encamped at Kelshi, eight miles north of Suvarndurg<sup>112</sup>. Due to



the machination of the British, the fort was surrendered without resistance<sup>113</sup>.

Earlier, we have already mentioned that Bajirao accepted English protection at Bassein and he was carried through North Konkan to Poona by the British for restoring him to Peshwaship in early 1803. We shall now give a brief account of the main events that took place elsewhere in North Konkan since the accession of Baburao Angre to his Sarkhelship in 1799.

Baburao Angre succeeded to the Sarkhelship in 1799 and his career lasted up to 1813. During this period general peace and tranquility prevailed in Kolaba except some minor incidents such as, the Angre Government would capture a boat, the English would protest first and the capture a boat of the Kolaba government this would be followed by another protest and counter protests and finally both the parties would release all the boats of each other<sup>114</sup>. In 1803 the Kolaba fleet captured an English ship. On protest, it was released by the Angre, and the English warned the Angre that his armed boats would be captured by the Bombay Marine in future<sup>115</sup>.

Sakwarbai, wife of Jaysing, was under arrest at Khanderi fort with his son on 12 August 1800, she wrote to the English at Bombay about her pitiable position. She complained that Baburao Angre for the last four years was persecuting her and her sons and hence she looked to the British for help. She also deputed her son and one Sardar Appaji rao Chawan to Bombay for procuring



English help for release of three Sardars who were in Baburao's custody<sup>116</sup>. Baburao also tried to buy from the English their neutrality in the matter with a request to forbid completely all intercourse between Bombay and Khanderi<sup>117</sup>. At this time, Raghunath Angre, son of Tulaji Angre, assured the British his help to them against the Peshwa at the time of war between and remained in Bombay under the English protection<sup>118</sup>. This was resented by Baburao Angre who told the English that he would blockade the Khanderi Island and would capture the place by assault<sup>119</sup>. Accordingly Baburao Angre took possession of Khanderi island by assault on 29 October 1800<sup>120</sup>. Appaji Chawan servant of the Angre imprisoned Jaising<sup>121</sup>. Thereafter Baburao went to Poona to help Shinde's forces against Holkar. When Bajirao had to Mahad from Poona, Baburao met Bajirao at Revdanda and tried to dissuade him from throwing himself into the British arms<sup>122</sup>. Bajirao did not listen to him and therefore, Baburao returned to Poona. Amritrao was installed as a Peshwa in Poona on 12th November 1802. Thereafter Holkar's forces looted Poona to collect funds for meeting the expenses of the soldiers. In this frenzy, Baburao Angre's camp at Poona was plundered and every thing was carried away<sup>123</sup>. So Baburao returned to Kolaba from the fortress of Manikgad<sup>124</sup>.

In the next year, Baburao had to face a revolt of one Bacha Sonar, resident of Revdanda. Bacha Sonar and Gopal Pant Joglekar went to Karanja from Bombay and collected the people. They carried raids on two villages near Manikgad and plundered them. Baburao came to know that these people were instigated by Murarjee

Angre who was under Company's protection. Therefore, he deputed his vakil to English at Bombay requesting them to handover Murarjee and Gopal Pant who were at Karanja<sup>125</sup>.

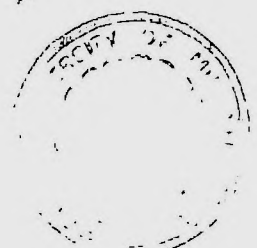
Major General Wellesley informed Baburao Angre that in May 1803 the English forces captured fort Karnala in the territory of Angre and gave it to the possession of the Peshwa. He also asked Baburao to drive out the bandits who were swarming round the fort<sup>126</sup>.

After reinstating Bajirao at Poona in 1803, the English Residency and the subsidiary forces stationed at Poona were getting supplies from the harbours in the possession of the Angre. So, the British did not want to drive Baburao Angre into hostility. However, they passed a resolution to have at least Angre's country in their possession and for that purpose they asked the higher authorities to induce the Peshwa to make a cession of Angre's territory to the Hon'ble Company<sup>127</sup>. So the English move to acquire Konkan territory was afoot from 1803.

Bachhashet Sonar was helped by Murarrao Angre, Mahimaji and Ramaji Angre. All these insurgents collected arms and ammunition with the help of the English at Bombay and attacked Kolaba. They gathered their forces at harbour Mandve. From there they pounced on Kolaba. Because of this sudden flare up Baburao Angre got baffled and went to Manikgad for shelter<sup>128</sup>. On information from Baburao the English despatched the naval ships to Kolaba<sup>129</sup>. The rebels captured fort Hirakot and they were about

to attack Kolaba. At this time Parsharam Shridhar Biwalkar, Killedar of Khanderi came to Kolaba and took the lead to save Baburao and the rayot from this aggression. He induced to his side Jamadar Ramrajkar Fattekha, confidant of Bachhaji Sonar, by giving him one lakh rupees. Jamadar Fattekhan agreed to hand over the rebels to Angre government. Accordingly, Angre forces attacked fort Hirakot where insurgents had gathered. The battle ensued and Manaji Angre fled away to Bombay. Bachha Shet, Mahimaji Angre, Ramaji Angre were made captives<sup>130</sup>. Except Ramaji, the three were beheaded. Ramaji Angre was put to death by flinging him from Sagargad in 1807<sup>131</sup>. Then the peace and tranquility was brought to the Angrian territory.

Thereafter, Baburao Angre had a peaceful life till his death on 16th August 1813<sup>132</sup>.



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## **CHAPTER VIII**

### **MANAJI ANGRE AND RAGHUJI ANGRE (1813 TO 1817 A.D.) (1817 TO 1839 A.D.)**

In 1813 Baburao Angre who had usurped the state from Manaji Angre with the assistance of Shinde of Gwalior died at Jamgaon on his way from Shinde's camp to Kolaba<sup>1</sup>. He left no male heirs after which his widow Kashibai carried on the affairs of the state with the help of Diwanji for about one year. Thereafter Manaji Angre was again restored to the Government of the state and was invested on 6th August 1814 with the customary honorary dress by a deputation sent by Bajirao Peshwa<sup>2</sup>. The Peshwa Bajirao informed his action to the Bombay Government on 12th August 1814. The Bombay Government by their letter of 6th September congratulated Manaji to "his restoration to the rights of his ancestors". The Peshwa for his support to Manaji in return received the island of Khanderi and twenty villages yielding a yearly revenue of Rs.10,000<sup>3</sup>. During this period Trimbakaji Dengle, murderer of Gangadhar Shastri of Baroda, was imprisoned at Thana on 26th September 1815. He was kept under the guard composed entirely of Europeans according to the orders of Governor General<sup>4</sup>. Trimbakji's guards were Europeans and did not know the Marathi language. Trimbakji was given one room for his residence on the upper storey of a building of the fort, the ground floor of which was used as stables. A clever Maratha Syce selected by Bajirao took up service with one of the English officers. These syces while

grooming the horses usually sing some tunes. This particular syce communicated through his songs the way of escape to Trimbakji Dengle, the prisoner. Bajirao had made arrangement about the horse. European guards did not suspect any mischief in these Marathi songs. On the evening of 12th September 1816 Dengle and the syce disappeared in the darkness and rode through jungles to North Khandesh<sup>5</sup>. Under the pressure from Elphinstone, the Peshwa issued proclamation and a reward for his arrest<sup>6</sup>. On the 6th June 1817 the Peshwa was forced to conclude a fresh treaty with the British. This treaty is known as Treaty of Poona. Some months before this Treaty of Poona was entered into, four hordes of Pendharies swept from the deccan to plunder the Konkan. They went as far as Asheri and Tarapur<sup>7</sup>. After the rains in November 1817 the Peshwa openly declared war with the English and let loose on the Konkan Trimbakji Dengle's hordes of Bhils and Ramoshis. In December the Peshwa was close to the Nane Pass. The British took measures to prevent his entering into the Konkan. In January 1818 Colonel Prother with his force took the important forts of Karnala, Rajmachi and Koari<sup>8</sup>. The acquisition of the north Konkan was completed by Captain Barrow's victory near Kusur pass over a body of Arabs, Musalmans and Kolis<sup>9</sup>. Thana was maintained as a military station. This success was achieved by the English under the immediate orders of the Government of Bombay with inadequate force at their command. This was noticed by M. Elphinstone and he praised Bombay Government in his letter to the Governor General of India<sup>10</sup>. He also recommended that the

settlement of the Konkan be done by the Governor-in-Council of Bombay<sup>11</sup> and suggested that northern Konkan be annexed to the Bombay Presidency under the authority of Government of Bombay<sup>12</sup>. The Governor General heartily approved Elphinstone's proposal for the consolidation of British administration by giving his assent to the annexation of the whole of Konkan to the Presidency of Bombay on 26th September 1818.

Manaji died in 1817 and his son Raghuji was succeeded him. When the British occupied Konkan in 1818 and declared it as a part of Bombay Presidency, Raghuji Angre, a boy of fifteen was ruling over the Angrian state. During his minority the state was managed by his father's minister Vinayak Parsuram Bivalkar. Even on reaching manhood, though he hated him, Raghuji was unable to free himself from Bivalkar who had bought over all the state officers and ruined the chief by extravagant expenditure.

He was so selfish that he caused Raghuji Angre to write a letter to M. Elphinstone at Poona dated 4th April 1818. Accordingly Raghuji Angre wrote to Elphinstone praising Vinayak Parsuram, the Dewan and stated that the said Dewan preserved the State by maintaining the alliance with the Hon. company when Bajirao subsequently broke with the Hon. company and commenced hostilities. He also requested Elphinstone that Dewan should be saved against molestation from the state of Kolaba and assurance to that effect should be given to the Deccan by the company's Government with regard to the amount of his debt to the Kolaba state<sup>13</sup>.

Elphinstone by his letter dated 4th April 1819 endorsed the views expressed by Raghuji in his letters saying that it was true that Diwanji preserved the state of Kolaba by maintaining the alliance with the Hon'ble company when Bajirao subsequently broke with the Hon'ble company and commenced hostilities. Mr. Elphinstone also agreed to the payment of certain allowances and Enams which were granted to him as well as to Bapoojee Ballal and others connected with him by the Government of Kolaba. Elphinstone also endorsed the Enam and allowances of Rs.15001/- granted to him by the Kolaba states so also Kolaba state should pay debt of Rs.229,298/- due to the Diwan with interest of 1 percent per month<sup>14</sup>.

Mr. Dunlop, Collector of Bank met Raghuji Angre in September 1822 and found him in his 18th year looked older from being uncommonly stout for his and found that he was brought up in complete seclusion and ignorance and would not read the letter from Government without assistance. Mr. Dunlop further reported that he could not discover any designs of the Dewan against the Angre and the inhabitants were living comfortably and were superior in number to the late Peshwa's districts<sup>15</sup> (Deccan Commissioner Vol. 6, 40, pp. 185-87).

The young Angre assumed the management of his Government dated 20th July 1822. He appointed two days in each week for hearing the complaints of his subjects during one of which he started sitting and superintending Panchayats at a Kachery in Alibag and the other on the island of Kolaba<sup>16</sup>.



Mr. Dunlop, during his visit to Raja communicated the desire of Bombay Government to enter with him with the treaty giving him protection and fixing the future relation of the Bombay Government with the Raja - Raghuji Angre consent to the treaty. Thereupon the Bombay Government prepared a draft of the treaty and forwarded it to Raja in October 1822 for ratification. It was ratified by the Raja on 7-10-1882 which runs as follows<sup>17</sup> :

Whereas by the conquest of the territories of Bajirao the late Peshwa and the complete extinction of his power, the rights possessed by his Government are now transferred to that of the Hon'ble East India Company and whereas it is desirable to fix with precision the future relations between said Company and Raghuji Angre the following articles have been agreed upon.

Article 1st.

The friendly relations which have long subsisted between the East India Company and the Kolaba State are hereby confirmed; and the British Government agrees to afford his protection to the Chieftain of Kolaba, against the attacks of any other state.

Article 2nd.

Raghuji Angre, in consideration of such protection engages on his part not to employ in his service any foreigner of any description whatever, whether European or American,



nor to allow such foreigner to reside within his Dominions without the permission of the British Government and in the event of any such person arriving within his Dominions to report the appearance of such persons to the British Government, neither will he enter into treaty of allowance or commence with any of the native states, but place his sole reliance on the protection and support of the British Government, in the enjoyment of this Rights, and for securing the object of this stipulation, it is further agreed that no communication or correspondence shall be held by the State of Kolaba with any other potentate or State without the previous knowledge and sanction of the Hon'ble company's Government but the Kolaba State will continue the usual correspondence with the Khan of Janjeera, Sucheev Punt, and other Umuldars on the border of Kolaba District respecting disputes which arises in the Mhals and dependencies.

Article 3rd.

The territories of the Kolaba state being intermixed with those of the British Government and it being desirable that the possessions of each should be concentrated by exchanges to be made on fair and just principles, it is hereby agreed that such exchanges as may be necessary with a view to the attainment of that object shall be adjusted by Commissioners to be nominated for the purpose of settling the boundaries of

the British Government and those of the principality of Kolaba and the British Government relying upon the fidelity of Raghuji Angre and on the sincerity of his acknowledgement of his supremacy of the Hon'ble company hereby guarantees to him and to his heirs and successors on the condition hereafter specified the integrity of the Dominions, the boundaries of which will be defined by the Commissioners to be appointed in pursuance of the foregoing provision.

Article 4th.

The British Government relinquishes in favour of Raghuji Angre, his heirs and successors Nuzzers, Nuzzurana as received or claimed by the late Peshwa and his successors, but reserves to itself entire Supremacy over the Kolaba State and the right of confirming investiture on the Chief of Kolaba or any vacancy of the mansad, and the said Raghuji Angre hereby engages on behalf of himself, his heirs, and successors, to act generally in subordinate cooperation to the British Government.

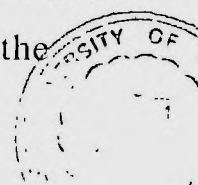
Article 5th.

The British courts of justice, laws and Regulations shall not be introduced into the principality of Kolaba against the will of Raghuji Angre, his heirs and successors, but the British Government hereby requires and provides and the chieftain aforesaid on behalf of himself his heirs, and successors,

hereby engages for the continuance in possession of all persons actually holding Enams and Surunjam, lands up to the present time under the Sunnuds of the Peshwa or the Rajas of Satara.

Article 6th.

And whereas the said Raghujee Angre has solicited (vide A) that the Hon'ble company could guarantee to Vinaikrao Purshuram Diwanjee and his associates certain villages and lands of the value of Rs.15001 as per annexed list (vide B) which have been assigned to him as a reward for his past services together with a debt due by the State of Kolaba to the said Vinaikrao Purshuram Diwanjee (vide C, D, E) not exceeding rupees 2282873 and that the said Diwanjee shall not be unjustly molested by the Kolaba State whereas the Hon'ble Company's government have undertaken the aforesaid guarantee to the said Vinaikrao Purshuram Diwanjee and to his heirs and successors together with certain persons therein named Raghuji Angre hereby engaged on behalf of himself, his heirs and successors, to make due provision for the payment of such amount as may appear on investigation to be justly due to the said Vinaikrao Purshuram Diwanjee and in failure thereof he further agrees that the Company shall be at liberty to interfere when occasion renders it necessary with a view to compel the said Raghuji Angre to place the said debt in a train of liquidation by allotting specific funds for that purpose but it is to be understood that on the



discharge of the said debts any funds which might be allotted to the payment thereof will revert to the said Raghuji Angre, his heirs and successors on their former footing. With respect to the above mentioned debt such amount as may be ascertained to be justly due shall be paid in case of any item in the account being objected to by either of the parties as to its being greater or less amounts, in the event of their not being able to come to an amicable private settlement between themselves the Hon'ble Company's Government will on investigation decide on any such disputed point and order the party which claim may appear just to receive credit for such ascertained amount.

#### Article 7th

And whereas certain rights, immunities and indulgences, as to fields, salt, batty fields, Pal & C now held by the Diwanjee and his associates as mentioned in his Annexed Memorandum (Vide F) may be affected by the exchange of the territories, the said Company engages to continue them to the said Diwanjee and his associates to be enjoyed on the same footing under the British Government as before under that of the Kolaba State.

#### Article 8.

All guns, stores and other moveable property in the forts and places to be mutually exchanged are to be removed by the parties relinquishing the same.

## Article 9

Raghuji Angre hereby agrees on behalf of himself, his heirs and successors, that in no case whatever shall any asylum be afforded within the limits of his possessions to any public offenders or to any persons desirous of escaping from the jurisdiction of the Company's court of justice or from the authority of the Revenue Officers or any other branch of authority of the Hon'ble Company and he further agrees to deliver up all such persons without delay, on application from such officer or officers as the Governor in Council in Bombay shall appoint for the purpose.

## Article 10.

Raghuji Angre do hereby engage on his own part and the part of his heirs and successors to prohibit the import and export of as well as the transit of opium within any part of the territories of the Kolaba State.

## Article 11.

And whereas the British Government hath bound itself protects Raghuji Angre, his heirs and successors, against the attacks of any other state and to secure to him the quiet possession of the territories dependent upon the Kolaba State and whereas it is incumbent upon Raghuji Angre and his successor to make permanent provisions for the support of



Morarjee Angre now residing on the island of Bombay on a stipend of Rs.250/ per mensem allowed to him by the State of Kolaba the said Raghuji Angre hereby engages on behalf of himself, his heirs and successors to continue payment of the said stipend of Rupees 250/- per month to the Government as heretofore for the purpose of above stated, while the said Morarjee Angre shall conduct himself in a suitable manner towards the Government of Kolaba, as now established. If any circumstance shall hereafter give rise to complaint against the said Morarjee Angria by the Kolaba administration for the time being, the British Government reserves to itself the exclusive right of deciding upon the conduct of the said Morarjee Angre whilst he to reside within the British Dominions and also as to the property or otherwise of the continuance of his said stipend of Rupees 250/-.

Article 12.

Beyond the boundaries of the Kolaba State, as to be fixed by the exchange of territories, there are several villages, Umuls, Lands, Wutuns and places belonging to it both above the Ghauts, and below them in Turuf, Nagotna, Talooka Soodhagur. These whatever on enquiry they may appear to be will after due deliberation be continued as heretofore a detailed schedule of them being hereafter made out and annexed to this treaty.

Immediately after assuming Sarkhel's office at Alibag by Raghoji Angre Kasibai, widow of late Baburao Angre prepared a claim of Rs.2000 or 2500 against the Kolaba state and sent her petition through the Government of Bombay. At this time Bombay Government also received many petitions of Kasibai which were prepared by a Banian name Moorli Harry, subsequently Kasibai disavowed the agency of the Banian. Thereafter one Fattessing Angre styling himself as son of Kasibai came forward to carry on intrigues. He petitioned to the Hon'ble company saying that Kasibai was imprisoned and harshly treated after her husband's demise so she should be paid compensation by the present Kolaba Government. Diwanji denied the fact of Kashibai's having been ever imprisoned or harshly treated. The Dewanji also called Fattessing as a pretender to the Kolaba state as Kashibai had no son. It was informed to the Bombay Government that Kashibai received her accustomed allowance of Rs.500/- per month besides her own private income<sup>18</sup>. Diwanji also informed his Vakeel Naro Raghunath who was residing at Bombay that if Fattessing came to see him he should be called upon state how long he was in Angre's house where he was resided and on what means? He should be called upon to state when he left the service of Bapu Gokhale<sup>19</sup>.

The Vakeel presented the whole case to the Bombay Government.

Honourable Governor in Council asked the Kolaba state to inform Kasibai that the claims of Baburao's branch of Angre's family

having long since been set aside by the Peshwa, his widow had no pretension to the Government of Kolaba and that her claim is inadmissible.

The Bombay Government found the territory of Angre and the British intermix therefore the commission was set up for the exchange of territory with Angre on 18th October 1822.

Raghuji Angre Raja of Kolaba came to know that Kashibai, widow of Babuji Angre had taken measures to leave the Kolaba state on the pretence of her wishing to proceed on a pilgrimage to Banares. He felt sorry on hearing this. At this time Bombay Government was assisting and guiding the Kolaba state administration. Therefore Raja Raghuji Angre wrote to William Henry Wathen, Secretary to Bombay Government informing Kashibai's intention to visit Banares and requesting him to oppose her departure as it was not the practices in Angre family and that she should be asked to remain in the state in a contended manner as he had very ample establishment and allowances which were greater than warranted by the family practice<sup>21</sup>.

The Government thought that Raghuji was too young. Therefore they called for further explanation from the Diwan for not allowing Kashibai to leave Kolaba<sup>22</sup>.

The Dewan informed Kashibai the objection of the British Government for her pilgrimage so also he intimated the same news to Shrimant Nurbadabai, widow of the late Raghuji Angre aged 75

years and the Sarkhel Saheb's mother Gujarabai Pae saheb aged 35, as these ladies were supreme in the control of Sarkhel saheb's family.

It was brought to the notice of Bombay Government that Kashibai was not alone. Kashibai's husband Baburao Angre ruled the state for 15 years and Kashibai herself for twelve months. Due to this there was a vast number of family slaves at Alibag were dependents of that branch (Baburao's). These people had intermarried among the slaves of Raghuji's branch on whose account they lived in Alibag and it was not practicable to expect them. The Dewan further wrote that although Kashibai and her husband, always viewed the present chief's branch of the family with a malignant eye yet thinking it but proper for the chieftain of state to maintain in the very best manner a female. Kolaba Government keeping this in their mind, have always treated and maintained Kashibai on the most suitable footing and during her stay in Kolaba she could not carry into effect any bad purpose<sup>23</sup>.

At the end the Diwan recommended Government not to allow Kashibai to leave Kolaba as it was not customary in the family that the wife of the chief of the family was allowed to live apart from others and secondly to save the country where the Hon'ble company had established peace from treachery, it was necessary to arrange the household affairs properly<sup>24</sup>.

In the year 1825 Sarkhel Raghuji Angre intended to proceed on a pilgrimage to Trimback and a passport from the British

Government. He was permitted to take with him footmen 500, Horsemen 150, Camels 40, Small field piece 1, Baggage Tatoo 150, followers and others 500. The passport was issued for two months w.e.f. 7 December 1825<sup>25</sup>.

### **Now let us turn to the miscellaneous judicial decisions**

In the year 1820 a dispute in the community of earthen pot makers arose as to who should be a chief of the community. This dispute did settle till 1825<sup>26</sup>. Produce of the Kumbhar watan was credited to Government every year till 1825.

In the year 1833-34 a dispute arose between Mahajan and the villagers of Nagao regarding distribution of sum obtained on account of ritual of Ganapati. The sum gathered during the ritual was credited to Government as deposit<sup>27</sup>.

### **MISCELLANEOUS JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

In the year 1798-99 one Raghu Gharat Nagavkar's daughter in law was out cast from the community. Prayer was heard from Nagavkar and daughter in law was admitted in the community by paying a levy of Rs.4/- to Government<sup>28</sup>. In the year 1810-11 a barber of Nagao left the shaving half and went home. The complaint was lodged in the Mahal. The barber was found guilty. He was fined eight annas<sup>29</sup>. In another case the barber refused to shave a person.





In the year 1815-16 the barber of Nagav refused to shave the villagers. He was fined Re.one. One Krishna Hetkar was found making labourer's job in the village but refused to do compulsory labour ( वेठबिगार ). Hetkar was found Government employee and was on leave when he was found working therefore he was fined Rs.one. Barbar refused to shave a person and he was fined eight annas.

A man drank a country liquor in the house of one Bhandari and entered in his house. He was fined Rs.2/-.

In the year 1813-24 one Nathuram Gujarathi fought with Kakumbrin of Babaji Godbole. Nathu Brahmin was fined 8 annas<sup>30</sup>. In year 1829-30 one Mandavshet Gujar purchased gold from Sakharamshet Goldsmith. But it was found less in weight. Gujar filed a suit against Sonar in the Mahal, Sonar was fined Annas 4.

In the year 1830-31 owner of Bagayati field was not found therefore the animals entered in the Bagayati and found doing damage. A suit was filed by the neighbour for damage. The culprit was fined 8 annas. One Bhagirathi Manjarekar found doing adultery. She was fined Rs.20/-.

(1832 Oct 6) One Jawal Baheer Choghala drank wine and did fighting. He was captured and ordered to be paraded through the village. In order to avoid this changha paid Re.one to Mahal secretary ( अंतस्थ ).

One Damaji Naik Kocharekar died. Half of the income of his field was taken in Government. It was 100 pedas a price of which was declared as annas twelve. This sum was credited to Mahal treasury<sup>31</sup>. The Bombay Government was inquiring into the affairs of Raghuji Angre. Governor in Council in 1827 collected information regarding the territories belonging to the Kolaba state situated beyond the River of Reodanda and Nagothana<sup>32</sup>.

Bombay Government had taken decision in 1837 to ask Angre to close the Mint. In the minutes of the Rt Hon. Government it was stated, "I have always thought Angria suffered injustice in compensation, nor do I mean to lose sight of your subject, though it will be a difficult task now to retrieve our steps"<sup>33</sup>.

The Bombay Government came to know that in December 1838 the oldest wife of Raghuji Angre had delivered a daughter and that the younger wife was to be confined in a month<sup>34</sup>. Raghuji died on 26th Decembr 1838<sup>35</sup>. He left before his death Raghuji asked the Diwan to transmit to the British Government the following (his second wife being conceived), if she gave birth to a son he was to be the ruler. He had three wives the eldest was Kamalabai to whom the Raja conceded the right of precedence and said that all affairs of the state should be conducted recognizing her as the principal. She had four daughters whose marriages should be celebrated by the officers (Kamdars) in a suitable manner. He also gave eldest wife right to adopt in accordance with the religious rites in case the second wife did not give birth to a son<sup>36</sup>.

Before the recognition of Raghuji's prosthymous son the succession to the Kolaba state was claimed by Baburao's nephew, Sambhaji who was then residing at Gwalior. On hearing of Raghuji's death he addressed a letter to the Bombay Government stating that no one was entitled to claim the chiefship of Kolaba but himself and his brother. Shortly after the resident at Gwalior forwarded a note from that court supporting Sambhaji's claims. When the claims were received Bombay Government deputed one responsible officer on special duty to Kolaba. He came to Alibag and found that they were not second cousins of the deceased. Bombay Government took into consideration the officer's report of 4 January 1839 and negatived their claims<sup>37</sup>.

W. Coartney, officer on special duty from Bombay Government said in his second report dated 17 January 1839 that the succession to the gadee was neither descended regularly from father to son nor was confined to the legitimate line. He further stated that chieftainship was frequently conferred among the Marathas on natural sons on receiving large Nazarana or an account of their character for courage and conduct and prospect of their doing good services to the paramount power. He also brought to the notice of Government that by the 4th article of the treaty concluded with Raghuji Angre in 1822 that the British Government relinquished in favour of him, and his heirs and successors Nazarana, as received or claimed by the late Peshwa but reserved to itself entire supremacy over the Kolaba state and the right of conferring investiture on the chief of Kolaba on any vacancy of the Mansud<sup>38</sup>.

W. Coartney, officer on special duty at Alibag reported for the information of Bombay Government that Yashodabai, second widow of late Raghuji Angre had just given birth to a son on 29 January 1839<sup>39</sup>. Government acknowledged his letter and asked him to remain there for sometime.

The special officer found that Sambhaji Angre, living at Gwalior had usurped the title and seal of the Kolaba state. A representation was made to the Government to prohibit Sambhaji from using the title and the seal<sup>40</sup>.

But the letter of 6th February 1839 Government of Bombay authorised the investiture of the child lately born to Sarkhel Raghuji by the 2nd wife as the chieftain of Kolaba. The infant was invested with power on 8th February at 12. He was named Kanhoji Angre<sup>41</sup>.

Thereafter Diwanji prepared the following note for the approval of Bombay Government (1) Till the prince came of his age his 3 mothers were to take of him (2) Diwanji would carry on affairs of state "acknowledging the eldest mother as his master as the principal and informing her of any proceedings that were adopted. All papers would be signed and sealed by the eldest mother of the prince.

Government approved the above and gave formal authority to Diwanji by their letter dt. 2-2-1839<sup>42</sup> stating that the minister was to co-operate cordially with Government for bettering the state of the people and that he was to keep Bombay Government informed of all events of importance. When this agreement was completed

Mr. Courtney was recalled from Kolaba. This arrangement of Kolaba state administration had continued for one year with an infant Angre as head of the state. Unfortunately this head of the state, Raja Saheb of Kanhoji Angre Sarkhel was found suffering from a disease in his stomach in the 1st week of April 1840. Every medical remedy was applied to it which however proved unsuccessful and he got worse for three days and the infant Raja died on Thursday the 9th April 1840 at midnight". This unfortunate news was communicated to Bombay Government by Mr. Davies, second assistant to the political Agent at Alibag<sup>43</sup>.

The political agent at Kolaba received a memorandum from Ranji Saheb stating therein names of (13) thirteen male descendants than living, linear heirs of body (not by the line of the first Manaji Angre and requested British Government to be gracious and please reestablish the state from among there, according to the usage of former times. Along with the Memorandum a geneo logical table showing the time of descent from the first Kanhoji Angre of Kolaba together with the illegitimate branches down to that date was forwarded to Government<sup>44</sup>. The memorandum with its accompaniment was forwarded to Bombay Government on 8 May 1840 by Mr. J.M.Davies, second assistant to the political agent. The Bombay Government referred this matter of succession issue to Governor General in Council at Calcutta. It also sent a quotation from the Hon'ble Mr. Elphinstone's report on the territories conquered from the Peshwa which contains the following allusion to the Kolaba state<sup>45</sup>.



"Angria is a Maratha chief. He was among the earliest supporters of Sevajee's family. At one time possessed almost of Konkan and his ancestor was the principal means of establishing the Government of Raja Shahu and the authority of the first Peshwa. He has been however reduced by gradual encroachment to a three lakhs. He received investiture from the Peshwa, on the Raja's behalf but was otherwise independent<sup>46</sup>".

The G.G. in Council at Calcutta considered Bombay Government despatch regarding succession issue of Kolaba and sent a reply to the chief secretary to Government of Bombay rejecting permission of adoption to the eldest Rani of Raghuji Angre which was granted in the absence of birth of the natural son and that any claim advanced by the widow to make a further adoption was clearly untenable and the succession of female to the chiefship would be contrary to all usages therefore his lordship in Council would annex the Kolaba territory to the British dominions allowing all personal property to be distributed amongst the surviving members of the family according to ordinary law custom and granting a liberal provision from the lapsed revenue to the surviving members<sup>47</sup>.

The order of the Governor General was implemented by the Bombay Government in May 1843 by the political superintendent of Kolaba and the State was annexed territory was merged with the District of Kolaba<sup>48</sup>. The Bombay Government delivered the property of the Raja to the Ranees.



On scrutiny Government found the following six ladies of the Raja's family fit to enrol in the privileged to the lapsed territories.

(1) Kamalabai (2) Yashodabai and Yamunabai widows of Raghuji (4) Guzarabai alias Yesabai, Mother of Raghuji Angre (5) Kashibai, widow of Baburao Angre (6) Laxmibai widow of Kanhoji, brother of Raghuji Angre.

The Government pension of Rs.12000 per annum to Kamalabai the senior widow, Rs.8000 per annum to each of the two junior widows and other life time pensions to the daughters of the chief. It was also decided that the pension should be paid in Alibag currency<sup>49</sup>.

It is worthwhile to mention about Police salt, dawk arrangement.

## **POLICE**

During the regime of Sarkhel Angre, the Patels of the villages were entrusted the duties of foudjars or village police. The village foudjadar was usually neglecting his duties as he was paid meagre remuneration. Half of their original allowance was shamefully confiscated during the niggardly and grasping administration of Diwan Vinayak Purushottam as he had kept the Sarkhel under his thumb. There were 150 inhabited villages the extra faujadars were in hamlets so in all there were 190 foudjars of them 155 were Patels and were receiving their share of the Patel huks when their turn came round the rest were receiving nothing at all.

There were 2 district Mamalatdars. 1. Jamadar (Commandant) 3 Havalgars, 5 Naiks, 3 drummers, 1 fijer, 2 standard bears and 69 sepoy. They were paid annually about 6500 rupees. The Rangers were employed as guards over the huzur and district treasures, the Kolaba jail and Rane's houses. Besides this 122 revenue peons and 39 talathis were seasonally employed on police duties<sup>50</sup>.

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## **CHAPTER IX**

### **ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE**

### **ANGRIAN TERRITORY**

The Angre's territory was mostly in Kolaba District of Maharashtra State.

### **PHYSICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES**

To understand socio-economic aspects of the Angrian territory, it is necessary to mention physical and geographical features of the Angre's territory in the beginning.

### **BOUNDARY OF ANGRE'S TERRITORY**

This territory was lying between 72° - 55' and 73-10' W. longitude and 18-30' and 10-51' N latitude and was bound on the east by Nagothna river and the Talukas of Sanksee and Rajpoor, on the South Revdanda river, on the West of the Sea; including the island of Kolaba, Underi & Khanderi and on the North by the harbour of Bombay.

The total area of the Angre's territory; was 21-1-1/2 sq. miles; according to captain T. Jervis' statistics of the western coast of India<sup>1</sup>.

**SOIL** - In view of the physical characteristics, land in the territory was divided according to colour and fertility of soil<sup>2</sup>. A

small patch of cultivated land was seen near the creeks. The barren land was called warqus : the salty near the coast line was called as Kharpat or salt batty land<sup>3</sup>. In a memorandum written by Annaji Datto, Shivaji's minister, thirteen types of soil have been mentioned. The Europeans who surveyed the Angre's territory after fall of the state to British Government in 1840, have mentioned<sup>4</sup> in detail about soil as follows :

The soils may be divided as follows :

1st diluvial and alluvial, composed of various disintegrated rocks of the overlying trap formation, with large or small proportion of calcareous substances :

2nd soils formed by the disintegration of laterite and trap :

3rd clayey mould, resting upon trap :

4th soil containing marine deposits, a large portion of sand and other matter in concretion. Of all these, the first is by far the richest, and occupies the greater portion of the district : its productiveness is ascribed chiefly to the presence of lime which is found in nodules called Kunkur. It also contains a good deal of vegetable matter in the centre of the valleys, and near the banks of the large rivulets. This soil occupies the whole of the space between the foot of the hills & the garden plantations on one side, and the salt batty lands on the other. Running from Alibag in a northern direction, for about 8 miles, is a strip of the soil, varying from a quarter of a mile to about a mile in breadth, which contains

a excess of lime, found quite near the surface : and owing to this cause, it remains uncultivated: however with a little mixture of the adjoining red soil, it might be made highly productive.

Second type of soil mentioned in the same report covers the sides and slopes of the hills and elevated mounds. It is formed by the roots of trees and shrubs detaching and pulverizing the rock; and by this process in course of time, it becomes fit for the cultivation of the hill crops, such as Naglee, Warree, Hemp etc: but owing to the little depth of the soil it soon becomes exhausted, and is therefore allowed to lie fallow for a few years, to permit of the re-collection of the detritus<sup>5</sup>.

The third description of soil is mostly to be found on the eastern part of Kolaba, where there is a piece running along by the side by the Nagothana creek, about 18 miles in length, and varying from half a mile to three miles in breadth. There are also other detached pieces of this description of soil to be found near the Rohi Ushtamee creek, on the southern and Western sides of Kolaba. The soil is called by the Natives "Kharapat" meaning salt land. It was originally submerged by salt water, and there are document extent showing that it has only been recovered from the sea within the last three hundred years. The mould is mostly of dark brown colour; the best description is black. In the vicinity of the Nagothna creek, it is here and there interspersed with little calcareous tubes, varying from one to eight inches in length : they are called by the natives as "Ludha" the literal translation of which is "scum of the sea"<sup>6</sup>.

The fourth description of soil lies immediately upon the sea coast, running from the extreme north point of Kolaba and terminating a little below the entrance of the Rewdanda creek. It is about 18 miles in length, and varying from about a quarter of a mile to a mile in breadth. About the sites of the Kolaba coconut plantations, the late Agent, J.M.Davies, says in his excellent report: "The plantations are naturally favoured, being sustained, as they doubtless were originally suggested, by the abundant supply of water contained in a slip of concrete of sand and lime which bounds the coast, and absorbing the sea water, yields it again sufficiently filtered for purposes of cultivation. Lying upon this crust is a considerable depth of lime vegetable mould, which from experiment I have found to yield European and Native vegetables in great abundance"<sup>7</sup>.

Let us study classification of land, the crops raised on the land & unit of measuring the land.

Land under cultivation was divided into Jirayat<sup>8</sup> and Bagayat<sup>9</sup>. The former may be said to occupy a little more than seven-eighths of the cultivated land and the Bagayat the rest. Jirayat land received water from the rains, wells or canals. The Bagayat land getting water from fall and the Bagayat from wells was called Motasthal<sup>10</sup>. The land was divided into Awal (superior), Dum (ordinary) and Sim (inferior)<sup>11</sup>. Revenue prevalent in this territory has also the following divisions 1 Parrnu, 2 Murbad, 3 Dhulpat, 4 Darvat, 5 Khari, 6 Khasti<sup>12</sup>, warkus and tag are cultivated immediately after the 5th June: the cultivation of rubbee malwai commences about the end





of the monsoon. Bagayat and Jirayat lands cultivated nearly throughout the whole year<sup>13</sup>.

### **PRICES OF GRAIN**

The prices of grain varied from place to place and according to conditions prevailing at the time. There are a number of references in the contemporary Angre records about the prices of grain, vegetables and other articles.

The prices of rice varied according to the type especially the size and flavour of rice. The rice was collected from the peasants by way of revenue. Such rice was resold to the rayats. Moraji Shinde incharge of Janjira Revanda was asked by the Government to sell one hundred Khandis of old rice at the rate of rupees twenty five per Khandi<sup>14</sup>.

### **MODES OF CULTIVATION**<sup>15</sup>

As the rice is the staple produce of the territory, its mode of cultivation is given in full detail. Between December and May the patch of land that is selected out of each field to provide plants for the whole is first of all carefully covered with cow-dung, and sometimes with bushes. This is overlaid with thick grass, and over this, again fine grass is spread, to take off the inequalities, and to fill up interstices to receive the earth which is spread over the top. This is then set fire to on the leeward side, and generally towards morning which is the best time, after the falling of the heavy dew.

In June, after the land has been sprinkled by a few showers, it is strewn with rice, and then ploughed, or rather scarified; the latter process has the effect of either turning the earth over the rice, or driving the latter into the soil. The plough, which is a very primitive concern, is worked either by a pair of buffaloes or bullocks, and a man to direct, who also drives. The bullocks or buffaloes guided by the driver's stick only no nose-string being used, as is usual in the Deccan. The plants shoot up after a few heavy falls of rain : they are then allowed to grow for three weeks or a month; and the end of the constellation Arudhra, to the end of Poonurwasoe after the soil has become quite soft, they are pulled up in little bunches, and planted at distances of about eight to ten inches from each other in the other soil, which is previously ploughed, and sometimes cleared of grass by the ala or rake. The process of planting and transplanting being thus completed, the land is afterwards only weeded from time to time. The reaping is performed between the months of October and November by the Veela or reaping hook. The crop is left in the field, where it is spread out to dry more perfectly; it is afterwards tied up in sheaves, and built into a stack. After a month or so, the threshing commences: a small piece of hard ground sometimes a rock is selected, which is well cleaned and swept; the sheaves are then beaten against the ground. This is continued until the whole of the grain has been separated from the straw : the latter is then put by for the cattle, and thatching purposes. The winnowing now follows, which is done by filling a flat basket (soop) with the grain,

and slowly emptying it upon then ground from as high as the upraised arms can hold it<sup>16</sup>. In the salt rice land no plough is used, neither is the soil manured. After the beginning of June, when the ground has become thoroughly saturated, and quite soft, the seed is either thrown into the mud, or where the land is low, and subject to overflowing of rain water, it is wetted and placed in a heap until it sprouts when it is thrown into the mud. No transplanting takes place : but after the plants have grown up a little, those that are crowded are pulled up, and placed at greater distances from each other. The chief thing to be observed in the salt batty land is the embankments, which require great labour and expense in keeping in repair. Should a field by any accident be flooded by salt water, the crops for three years would be of a very inferior description. The reaping and threshing is exactly like that in the sweet rice land.

Wurkus cultivation is divided as follows :-

1st land on the slopes of the hills. 2nd elevated land, near the rice fields, and table-land on hills. In the first description, etc. which is afterwards, between March and the end of May, spread out and burnt as manure, and any inequalities in the land are taken off with the pick-axe and hoe (powrah) ; and on the commencement of the monsoon, after the soil has become thoroughly wet, the seed (only naglee and wurre) is thrown into the mud; and no further operations are required beyond keeping up a vigilant watch a little before harvest, to prevent wild animals destroying the fields. After the crops have ripened, the ears are plucked off and thrown into

blankets; the seed is then worked out with the feet. The process in the second description is as follows :- The land that is selected for the rearing of the naglee and warree plants is in the first instance covered with cow-dung and grass, which is burnt in the cold weather: and after the beginning of June, the soil is strewn with the seed, and then ploughed. The mode of transplanting and Cultivation is like that in the sweet rice land, and the threshing like the foregoing. The other productions from Nos. 3 to 7. Such as teel oodeed etc. are cultivated without the burning process, but the land first ploughed and then sown<sup>17</sup>.

The rubbee land is re-ploughed after the removal of the first rice crop the seed is then thrown in, and occasionally, where the soil is deficient of moisture, and wal is required to be grown, the drilling process is adopted. Nearly all rubbee fields are enclosed by hedges.

The mode of cultivating tag or hemp is similar to that of the other kinds of grain grown on the wurkus or hilly lands. After the reaping, threshing take place, the stalks are thrown into water, and there allowed to decompose. The fibres are then separated, and made into twine or ropes : the pith is reserved for the purpose of making the common matches. It is to be remarked that besides the ryots, the kolees or fishermen generally cultivate this plant. Malwai or vegetable cultivation is like rubbee.

Cultivation of the two principal products in the bagayut or garden land, coconut and betelnut, is as follows :- After the nuts

have become quite ripe, which is ascertained when they fall of themselves to the ground, they are buried about two feet in the soil, which is previously loosened and levelled; and after the plants are a year old they are transplanted, and buried about two feet deep. The soil is then enriched by mixing up with it salt and naglee. (*cynosurus corocanus*). The chief thing afterwards is the watering, and great expense is obliged to be gone to in making wells and water courses and wheels. After the eighth, ninth or tenth year, the trees commence to bear, yielding twice a year, and sometimes thrice : 120 coconuts and 250 sooparees is about the annual average produce of each tree. A great many of the coconut trees are also tapped : the toddy is extracted by cutting off the tops of the young shoots when they are little more than two feet long, and tying them very tight at intervals of a few inches. The Native name of the instrument used for cutting the shoot is awt. It is as sharp as a razor, and is described under the head of implements. The juice of the tree drops into an earthen vessel which hangs on the top of the shoot, and is emptied every morning and evening into a calabash, which the Bhandaree carries up the tree by hanging it behind him on a hook. A seer and a half is the average daily quantity extracted from each tree. The toddy is mostly made into liquor; a little of it is sold in the raw state<sup>18</sup>.

The pan or piper betel leaf, which is a perennial, is cultivated extensively throughout the plantations but particularly in the southern parts, towards Cheol, Rewdanda, and Nagaon. The soil is first well ploughed and dug; ridges are made, and the cuttings are planted



in them : reeds of the wattle (Karwee) are then stuck into the earth, for the creepers to cling to. They are shaded by roofs until they take root, and are manured occasionally with decomposed fish. If the watering is properly attended to, the creeper yields after the first year. The leaves are exported largely to Bombay during the rains<sup>19</sup>.

The plantain yields only one crop, when it is cut down, but new shoots spring up around the roots which are transplanted and placed in rows at intervals of four or five feet and bear fruit in the second year. From the tad tree very sweet toddy is extracted.

The Chinch or Tamarind tree grows without care and yields once a year. A small quantity of Tamarind is exported every year to Bombay. Ambai or Mango tree grows spontaneously throughout the whole of the plantations. They are found in the Bagayat in Alibag, Cheol and Rewdanda. The common mangoes are exported in a green state to Bombay. Phanus or the jackfruit trees grow without trouble and yields once a year. Annanus or pineapples vegetable mostly in Cheol and Rewdanda. They are exported to Bombay where they fetch good money<sup>20</sup>. In the territory there found two kinds of land :

1. Jeerayat, mostly rice land, and
2. Bagayat or irrigated land.

Prices of principal products are found in the accounts books of the year 1817-18<sup>21</sup>.



## **TENURE AND OCCUPATION**

The system of tenure under the Angre's rule was purely ryotwar, that is, the settlement of the revenue was made with each individual cultivator, without the interference of a middle party and no alteration was made in this system till the introduction of the British rule.

With regard to the occupancy of the land the land ryot was holding permanent possessions and was not liable to ejectment so long as he was paying the Government demands. There was a little here and there, called Khaireej Mukta Jameen, or Eksali Jamin which Government had the power of letting out annually to any person, who might agree to give the highest amount of land rent to Government<sup>22</sup>.

There was no leasing system or Khot system as prevalent in neighbouring Talukas of Rajpooree and Raigad.

There were frequent (Sanchayanis) under the Angrian Government with the avowed object of increasing to the almost limits the demand of the state upon the products of the soil. This system was regarded by the people as an oppression, tending to check permanent improvement and to disturb the occupancy of the land.

## **MODES AND RATES OF ASSESSMENT**

Land revenue was divided into Jeerayat and Bagayat, under the head Jeerayat, the principal item is that from Kharif land, which is again subdivided into Oothalpat or sweet rice land, and Kharpat

or salt batty land. The other items under Kharif are workus, rubbee, tag and Malwai. These lands were measured every year<sup>23</sup>. The whole of the wurkus, rubbee and malwai used to be surveyed every year by the talathis or native accountant and revenue used to be collected according to certain fixed rates.

In the bagayat land, there were three different types of assessments : the first and the principal one was where the revenue was collected upon the trees (booddena); the next was the Kuleet system, where the revenue was taken on the produce of each tree by actual inspection of the number of coconuts and a very few places the revenue was on the land<sup>24</sup>, which was third type of assessment.

Government grass lands (Kooruns) were annually let out by public auction. It is interesting to know that the Angre Government was collecting cess on 45 jems the important of them are - Bhat babattee (rice land), plantation or garden land, salt, coconut trees, Naglee, rubbee, Jameendhara Pahanikharah, second crops, a tax on milk buffaloes, miscellaneous produce, sale of grain remaining in the store. Hill cultivation, on new land brought under cultivation, honey, levy on ghee and on oodeed<sup>25</sup> cultivators, sale of hareek, Government timber, from forests, Taramind, palmyra trees produce of Government gardens, levy on Tad, Chinch, Tooree, Sadhanuk, Kuran Makta, Vantakka, a grazing tax on non-cultivations, a tax on the ground occupied by vessels (not belonging to Colaba) housed in the monsoon, salt<sup>26</sup>.

The collection of cess by the Angrian Government in 1824-25 amounted to Rs. 2,27,734 and in 1836-37 Rs. 2,54,245<sup>27</sup>.

During the Angrian require the revenue was collected in kind<sup>28</sup> so it is difficult to render it in exactly cash.

In the bagayat or plantation land, the assessment was divided into equal portion for every month of the year throughout all the garden plantation with the exception of Cheul, where there were three instalments, respectively commencing on the second and third months after the Mirag, on 5th June. The system of the bagayat revenue; was very old date prevalent in the state<sup>29</sup>. Bagayati lands and crops were also assessed after the inspection. No inspection, no extra assessment was the principle which was generally followed by revenue department of the Angre Government<sup>30</sup>.

In the Bagayat land assessment was charged on coconut, bettlenuts, Undi, Jackfurit, grains, vegetable produce etc.<sup>31</sup>.

The land revenue of each Mahal was collected at 4 places (1) Mahal Pota, (2) Parbhare (Direct), (3) Janjira Kolaba (4) Subha's head quarter<sup>32</sup>.

A very interesting unpublished Yadi (list) stating cultivations of land in Nagav Mahal belonging to the year 1774-75 gives the rates of assessment for bagayat and jirayat lands. The rate for each bigha of Jirayat land was about one rupee and two annas and in the case of bagayat land it was rupees three and a half per bigha. The rate of assessment of bagayat land was thrice the rate of jirayat land.



It can be gathered from the unpublished documents that the rate of assessment for bagayat lands was not uniform. The rate for jirayat land like the rate for Bagayat land, seems to have remained uniform in the second half of the 18th century.

In the case of jirayat land turned into bagayat land by the sinking of wells, the assessment was gradually increased. In order to compensate the expenditure on account of digging of wells, the assessment was gradually increased<sup>33</sup>. The assessment was increased five folds after a period of five years.

TABLE NO. 1 - ASSESSMENT

YEAR	BIGHA	Rs. A. P.
1st Year	Per bigha	1—00—00
2nd "	"	2—00--00
3rd "	"	3—00--00
4th "	"	4—00--00
5th "	"	5—00--00

Mango trees in bagayat lands; it was laid down; should not be assessed separately. Mango trees belonging to Patils and others should be inspected when they began to bear fruits and taxed at the rate of rupee one per thousand fruits<sup>34</sup>. The Government charges different rates for different land and crops. The villages in Mahal Nagav were assessed at the following rates after the usual inspection of 1772-73<sup>35</sup>.



TABLE NO. 2

LAND	BIGHA	Rs. A. P.
First Class Land	Per Bigha	5—00-00
Second Class Land	"	4—00-00
Third Class Land	"	3—00-00
Rabi Land	"	1—8—00
Warkas Land	"	1—8—00
Sugar cane	"	5—4—00
Coconut tree	"	0—8—00

Sometimes the bagayat and jirayat lands were assessed equally by the Government for improvement of agriculture<sup>36</sup>.

The rates of revenue varied from crop to crop and it was fixed by the Government after inspection. Payment was made both in kind and cash, probably according to the convenience of the rayats.

TABLE NO. 3

KIND OF GRAIN	WEIGHT	Rs.A.P.
Rice	Per Maund	1—4—0
Nagli	"	1—8—0
Wari sava	"	1—4—0
Jowari	Per Khandi	35--0--0
Gram	"	40—0—0
Wheat	"	40—0—0
Til	Four Payalis Kalis	1—0—0

In the following document we shall see different rates were charged for different crops and pulses during the period of Tulaji Angre (1744-54)<sup>37</sup>.

TABLE NO. 4

NAME OF COMMODITY	WEIGHT	RATE Rs.
Rice	Per Khandi	20
Nagli	"	16
Wari	"	13/33
Til (Sweet)	"	50
Chavali, Kadve & Kulith	"	30
Til (black), udid	"	40
Pavate, Sale & Mug		



Similarly the assessment was fixed at the rate of five maunds per Khandi in kind<sup>38</sup>. For one Khandi of grain produced the assessment was five mounds. The assessment, therefore, was in the proportion of one fifth of the produce, as usually twenty mounds made a Khandi. After sometime, it was assessed in cash by the government<sup>39</sup>.

### **THE LAND REVENUE OFFICIALS**

In the Angre's state. We find Vartak, Mahajan, Kulkarni, Chougule and Mane as revenue officials. They were paid annually through the Mahal's treasury as follows -

Mahajan Rs. 30/- Kulkarni, Vartak Rs. 35/- Mane Rs. 10/- Chougule Rs. 10/- In all Rs. 145/- were annually spent on the services of the above mentioned officials<sup>40</sup>.

### **PATIL**

The duties of Patil have been mentioned by Elphinstone in his report, Territories conquered from the Peshwa. In the report Elphinstone says, "he allots the lands to such cultivators who have no landed property of their own and fixes the rent which each has to pay, he collects the revenue from all the rayats, conducts all its arrangements with them and exerts himself to promote the cultivations and the prosperity of the village<sup>41</sup>. The Patil was the representative of the Government at the village level. It was his duty to collect revenue and other Government dues with the help of Kulkarni from the village. He had the authority to make expenses

in the village on behalf of the Government<sup>42</sup>. He tried to bring barren land under cultivation<sup>43</sup>. The Patil was mainly concerned about the cultivation of land in the village.

The rights and perquisites of Patil can be divided into Man Pan. receipt in cash, receipt in kind and services<sup>44</sup>.

### **MAN PAN**

In the village, different religious ceremonies like Pole, Diwali, Dasara, Holi, Shiralshet, Tulsi Puja were performed. As the prominent person in the village the Patil enjoyed Man Pan, that is priority rights. In the Ganesh ceremonies, the idol of Ganesh was to be taken first by the Patil. The music or the band at the time of Diwali and Dasara to be played first in front of the Patil's house. The women in the Patil's family had seniority right in the Nagpanchami festival. The Apta was to be first worshiped by the Patil on the Dasara day. The Brahmin was to conduct the Tulsi Puja at the Patil's house and then at other houses. The Brahmin was to tell Panchang first to the Patil.

### **RECEIPTS IN CASH**

Patil used to collect one rupee and quarter for every marriage celebrated in the village. Patil used to collect a tax on new-comers in the village amounting to Rs. 25 per year.

### **RECEIPTS IN KIND**

Mane Patil of Nagav had annual salary of Rs. 10/- only<sup>46</sup>. But, he used to receive certain commodities daily and annually. His

income in kind in 1806-07 was one Khandi, 14 maunds and 6-3/4 payalis. In the year 1839-40, he received 2 Khandi, 7 maunds and 6-1/2 payalis<sup>48</sup>. Patil had some rights of collection from the shops in the village. He was to get a quarter of seer of jaggery, salt and a betel nut from the grocer's shop. On occasion of marriage ceremony the Patil was to receive half a coconut with betel leaves as his manpan.

### **SERVICES**

The services of Mahar were made available to the Patil. The Mahar was to supply a bundle of firewood to the Patil and the Koli was to supply water to the Patil's house.

The English records state that there was a Sir Patil or the chief of all the kolees along the coast between Kalyan, Bhivandi and Harnee named Wagh Patel who used to reside in Alibag. To him, all cases were referred by the Kolees regarding fishing stakes, which were considered as real property and caste disputes etc.<sup>49</sup>.

### **KULKARNI**

In the contemporary records Kulkarni has been called Gao-kulkarni<sup>50</sup>. Along with Patil, Kulkarni was an important person who had duties and the rights in the village. Documents like the sale deeds, mortgage deeds and Kowlnamas regarding the watans in the village were to be written by the Kulkarni<sup>51</sup>. While writing these documents, the Patil was to be given the information and the Patil probably attended the meeting when the documents were written.



The Patil was also to take Kulkarni in confidence in the administration of the village. The collection of the revenue and the expenditure on account of village were to be done by Patil and Kulkarni jointly<sup>52</sup>.

The Patil and Kulkarni were held responsible for the collection of revenue in the village. In case they failed, they were sometimes kept under confinement till the payment of amount on account of revenue<sup>53</sup>. As Patil and Kulkarni were held responsible for the collection of revenue, it was laid down in a yadi<sup>54</sup> that after deducting the Government dues and the miscellaneous expenditure in the village the remaining amount was to be shared by Patil and Kulkarni.

### **THE RIGHTS AND PERQUISITES OF KULKARNI**

The Kulkarni was to receive Governmental presents like tila Vida and Sirpan<sup>55</sup>. Kulkarni was to receive Sirpan after the Patil. During the festivals like Dasara and Diwali, the music was played in front of Kulkarni's house after being played in front of Patil's house. He was also given by the Government houses for his personal use and servants quarters. The Government also exempted Jakat and Singoti when the Kulkarni purchased for the use of his family a batik, a horse, a bullock and a buffaloes. Similarly, the Kulkarni was exempted from the Jakat to be paid on the wood that the Kulkarni brought from the jungles<sup>56</sup>.

The Kulkarni received as his right, some amount of money as already noted<sup>57</sup>. He was to share a balance of revenue after paying

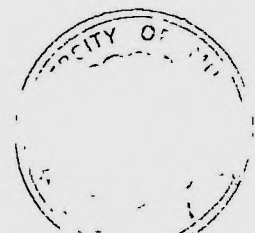
the Government due and the miscellaneous expenditure. In another document of the year 1752, it has been laid down that the Kulkarni was to collect two per cent of the total revenue collected<sup>58</sup>. But when there was less produce and receipt of income, the Kulkarni was held equally responsible for less receipt and Government used to order a cut in his income too. This had happened in the year 1798-99 and 1840-41<sup>59</sup>.

### **HOUSE TAX**

There was a system of collecting cess or tax on the houses and the collection which is termed as Sayer revenue was credited to the Mahal Treasury. The following houses were exempted from the taxes :- (1) Government Buildings Mete, Paga, (2) Worship places Temples, (3) Matna, (4) Slaves houses. (5) Houses belonging to Government officers, (6) Brahmins Houses. (7) Prabhu's houses, (8) Hutments of Beggars, (9) Hutments of people affected by leprosy<sup>63</sup> (10) Houses of maid servants<sup>64</sup>.

Separate hutments were built for those who were suffering from contagious and skin diseases of severe nature. Such huts were exempted from house tax<sup>65</sup>.

The houses were counted every year and taxes levied or exempted according to the orders of the Sarkar (Angre). After counting, Government used to take decision as to which houses to be taxed and exempted<sup>66</sup>.



Those who were coming for employment of any nature were encouraged by exempting tax on their hutments for three years<sup>67</sup>.

Items of expenditure were as follows -

(1) Grant of remission, (2) Gift, (3) Charitable Institutions, (4) Wages of Government servants, (5) State Guests, (6) Temples, places of worship, (7) Inams to the Brahmins, (8) Inams to the hakdars, Kulkarni etc.<sup>68</sup>.

### **KHARPAT LAND AND THEIR PRODUCT**

Angre Government had under its control Kharpat or salt batty lands comprising Mahal. This was called Kharapt tract.

The Taluka comprising these villages which is styled the “Kharapat” is a long, narrow strip of country, lying between the Nagothna Creek and the range of hills which runs from north to south through the Alibag Taluka. It extends from the sea, facing the harbour of Bombay on the north, to the Sambri Khind on the south, its length being about 17 miles, and the breadth varying from about mile in the broadest part and 1 mile in the narrowest.

The “Kharapat” is a large reclamation which has been gradually recovered from the sea during the last 300 years, and a considerable portion of it is some three or four feet below the sea level during the spring tides. It is entirely devoid of trees, except near the village sites in the inland side. The climate during the greater part of the year is much the same as that of the rest of Kolaba, but in the hot weather, the temperature is much higher owing

to the range of hills in the west, which intercepts the sea breeze. The average rain fall was 71.4 inches per annum.

These Khar lands were brought under cultivation during Angre's regime. Shri V. S. Avalaskar's publications, Angrekalin Patra Vyavahar, Angrekaline, Astagar, Nagav, Kolaba Gazetteers and Bombay Governments Selections give us information as how these Kharlands were brought under cultivation by the Marathas as well as the British. During the Angre rule Sabaji Prabhu was a Diwan of the Angres from 1732 to 1768<sup>69</sup>. He built an embankment around Khar land known as Khachali in the village Shrigaon and brought it under cultivation, in the year 1739-40<sup>70</sup>. Shri Sabaji's example was followed by the people of the Ashtagar and they brought under cultivation the following Khar lands (1) Khar Khanpur (1718-1719) (2) Khar, Medhe Khar (1721) (3) Mandave Khar in 1755 August (4) Khar in the village Chaware in 1759 (5) Khar land in the village Cheul. in 1760 (6) and Khar land named as Khar Dudhale in the village Chincholi in 1764-65<sup>71</sup>.

The chief labour and expense in cultivating salt rice land in the preparation of embankment is as follows: Every field is surrounded by an embankment varying in height from 2 feet to 4 feet, according to its distance from the creek, and this has to be renewed every year and kept in repair during the time the crop is on the ground. In addition to this, the main embankment along the creek has to be kept in repair and during the spring tides, watched carefully day and night. The poor cultivator could not

afford to do the expenses on embankment. Therefore the Khar land-owner or proprietor used to spend on embankment. He used to recover these expenses from the cultivator or peasant by way of making them to pay one maund extra for each Khandi and rice produced which was fixed as his share to be paid to the proprietor by the state. This system which was prevalent during the Maratha regime was continued by the British even after 1841, after the lapse of Angre state to the British Govt.

### **THE PRODUCT**

The only product of the district is rice, of which there are two kinds-white and red. The red rice is an inferior sort, and is grown only in low-lying land near the creek, which is liable to be flooded during the spring tides, and where the soil, from the constant percolation of sea water, is extremely salty. The white rice will only grow in the high-lying lands, which are beyond the influence of the salt water. The difference between the market value of the two kinds is from one to two rupee per Khandi.

The mode of cultivation is entirely different from that followed in sweet rice lands. The land is never ploughed; but a few clods of earth are turned over here and there with a sort of pickaxe. A portion of the straw is left standing every year, and this, when decomposed by the rain, forms the only manure that is ever applied. The process of burning bush wood in the places used in nurseries for the seedlings before transplantation is not necessary, but the seed is, instead, placed in a heap, and wetted until it begins to germinate.



After the soil has been thoroughly softened by the rain, the seedlings are scattered on the surface of the mud, and when they have grown up a little, those that are crowded are thinned. After this, no operations are needed till the crop ripens.

The Angre state was lapsed to the British Government in 1840. In 1852-53 these villages were surveyed and assessed by one Mr. Jones and the rates then introduced were guaranteed for 20 years. On the expiry of the lease at the end of 1872, the collector of Kolaba ordered its survey and till 1873 the British Government also continued the previous Government's policy of bringing the Khar land under cultivation by providing embankment. Thus, the Kolaba Gazetteer gives us estimate of new Khar lands which was brought under cultivation till that time<sup>72</sup>.

The survey report of 1872 of this land is found printed in Bombay Government selection No. CXLIV - new series in 1874. The assessors gives us conditions and the population of the inhabitants in the Khar land as follows :

“Of the 56 villages which form Kharapat tract, only 27 are inhabited, as the total absence of drinking water in the others compelled the cultivators of the land to live in other villages. The population, according to the Census taken in February 1871, has increased during the last 20 years from 6,948 to 9,200, or 32 per cent. This gives about 450 inhabitants to every square mile of the cultivable area. About one-third of this number is composed of Aguree Koonbies—an agricultural class peculiar to the caste. They

form a district caste, and do not intermarry with Marathas or other Koonbies. Many of them are polygamists; and a man who owns a good deal of land will probably have three or four wives, who assist him to cultivate his land and keep the embankments in repair. The men are greatly addicted to drink; but this is not to be wondered at, when we consider that they are obliged to watch the embankments day and night during the monsoon, and are frequently exposed for many hours to heavy rain. Notwithstanding this, they are, as a rule, a healthy and fine looking class of men, and I have seen very few signs amongst them of the bad effects of drink. Of the remaining two-thirds of the population, a good many are employed in fishing, others are employed on board of the small vessels which play in the harbour of Bombay and along the coast, and a few are engaged in the manufacture of salt in the salt pans of shabbaz or in the neighbouring district of Pen”.

### **FORESTS**

The Angres were in the possession of forests known as Mahan, Bellosee, and Chaora jungles, these jungles lie mostly on the summits and along the western slopes of the hills which run lengthways i.e. from north south east, through Kolaba. But there were minor jungles, containing thousands of promising young teak trees throughout the jungles of the state which were in the possession of Angres. The teakwood and blackwood forests of Colaba were considered very valuable and the best of its kind grown in the Konkan<sup>73</sup>. Some timber adopted for house and boat building



purposes are given below : Sag (teak), Seeswa (black wood) Kharsug, Aeen, Aamba, Nana, Haidoe, Dhaman, Asana, Duhiwad, Satweena, Aaba, Phanas, Wowala, Khair, etc.<sup>74</sup>.

### **SURVEY OF THE TREES**

Survey and assessments of the trees was always based on Pahani or actual inspection.

The revenue it seems, was not collected at one time. It was collected in three or five instalments, just like Peshwa Government.

In case of land where trees like coconut, betelnut and Undani were raised, no revenue was taken from the planters of trees for eighteen years in case of Coconut and in the case of Undani the period ten years. After the completion of the period, the revenue for Coconut trees, betelnut tree and Undani was four annas, one anna and three annas respectively<sup>74A</sup>. This was necessary because these trees did not give fruits immediately and required some years to bear fruits.

It is noticed from the records that the coconut and betel nuts trees were counted in the year 1798-99, 1808-09, 1816-17, 1829-30 and 1840-41<sup>75</sup>.

Let us now investigate the details the people, their dwellings, dress, food, education festivals and entertainment etc.



## **THE PEOPLE**

During the time of the Marathas, people in Konkan changed their hereditary vocation. The natural aptitude of boys of any caste was to take to the calling of a soldier. The troop of the horse attracted them.

The Angres territory consisted of 204 villages. Its population in 1840 was 57,190. It had as now mixed population of Hindus, Mohemedans, Parsees, Jews & Christians.

The population was in the proportion of 271 souls per square mile.

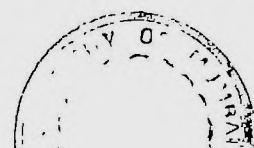
The Kunbees ( or agricultural class ) are the most numerous, and formed half of the population of the state : they were divided into two bodies, called Agrees and Marathas. According to Census taken on the 1st January 1840<sup>76</sup>; the number of Angres amounted to 1679. They were the cultivators of the Kharpat or salt batty lands. They often have two or three wives each for the purpose of assisting in cultivation. Agrees had liquor shops and they used to sell liquor.

The Kunbees are a hard working agricultural class. During the cultivating and harvesting seasons, they laboured hard for making embankments to prevent the immense quantity of fresh water during the monsoon losing itself in the sea. They had experience of labouring under burning sun and also heavy rain and yet they were found healthy and free from many diseases. People proceeding on

Government service were gratuitously entertained at the expense of the ryots and hire for conveyance of baggage, yet, although the agricultural classes laboured under all these difficulties they appeared to be in rather a more thriving state than they were after the lapse of the state<sup>77</sup>. During the state, all country product was consumed. The increasing poverty of the ryots is without draft chargeable upon themselves. They were in habit of running upon every little occasion to the money lenders for large sums, careless of the consequences or what misery is likely to be entailed on the succeeding generation. There were great number of liquor shops and the crime of drunkenness was on the increase. Often people were seen returning from bazars in a state of intoxication. This state of affair was afterwards improved by educating people and keeping the liquor out of the way of people<sup>78</sup>.

In the point of number the kolies or fishermen come next. Their locality was and even now is confined solely to the sea coast between Revdanda and Rewas, and their houses are chiefly situated on the outskirts of all these plantation villages. Their principal occupation is catching and drying fish for home consumption and exportation; a great deal was also taken in fresh to Bombay, direct from the stakes of Warsoles, Thul, Mandawa and Rewas. In fact, the system of stake net fishing was the chief one<sup>79</sup>.

The only other class worthy of notice was Kayasth Prabhu. Very few of them were cultivators. Some were in government service. On the whole, they were prosperous. The agricultural





prominence of the territory was most varied and mixed of the principal cultivators. Kunbis were found all over the territory especially in the inland villages, Agris along the coast and creeks, Bhandaries on the coast<sup>80</sup>.

### **THE SEA FARING CASTES**

The Bhandaries, Daldis, Sonkolis and Kharvis were the main seafaring castes of the territory. They supplied crew for the Angre's navy. The people of their sea faring castes were generally habituated on the coast of Angrian territory and subsisted mainly on fish and rice<sup>81</sup>.

The Bhandaris, engaged in extracting the palm juice as their hereditary professions. The Kolis and Bhandaris were daring people. They possessed practical knowledge required for sea voyages and the geography of surrounding coast.

The Khar lands were brought under cultivation during Angre's regime<sup>82</sup>. During the rainy season, the Agries were all engaged in the cultivation of these lands. Their duties were to watch and repair embankment and merely scatter the seeds from small boats into the flooded fields and leave the rest of the process to the nature<sup>83</sup>. The salt manufacturing in the territory was an extra occupation done by Agris, Kunbees, Kolis and Christians. Men folks were greatly addicted to drink as they were exposed to the cold weather in the salt works and salt lands<sup>84</sup>. The remaining population was employed in fishing. Some were employed on board of the small vessels which ply in the rivers<sup>85</sup>.

The Angre's territory was a cultivating and not manufacturing. Salt was the only article that supported a small portion of the population in its manufacture; leaving it independent of cultivation, Manufacture of salt yielded a considerable amount of revenue to the Government and at the same time gave employment to a good number of indigent cultivators. The salt was manufactured at Mandav, Varsoli, Cheul etc at about ten places<sup>86</sup>. The manufacture of salt continued throughout the whole period between March and the start of rains, in the course of which time five collections used to be made. A beega contains about 25 to 40 pans, and produces 16 anas of salt in one season, and ana being equal to 72 Bengal maunds, the price of which, not including the amount of duty which is paid at the rate of 12 annas per maund by the purchaser, is 108 being the total amount of returns to the proprietor<sup>87</sup>.

The ownership of the salt works was roughly equally divided between Government and private proprietors, known under the appellation of Shillotrees. The Government pans were occupying 73-8-1/2 beegas of actual salt lands and the private pan was covering in like manner 81-17 beegas.

### **SALT**

For the salt work, Government was keeping an establishment of 15 persons for the year by spending about Rs. 4600 annually. Government also used to keep establishment of 20 persons for eight months out of the year at the cost of Rs. 816-00. Thus the total amount spent on salt establishment by government amounted to Rs. 5416 per annum<sup>88</sup>.

From the total export of the salt the average amount of revenue realized by Government during the last ten years ending 1840-41 was Rs.19,027. After the lapse, the British Government got the revenue during the last nine years ending 1849-50 was Rs.35,970<sup>89</sup>.

### **DAWK ARRANGEMENT**

During the Angre regime no separate establishment was kept for this work. The horsemen were engaged for sending dawk. During the rainy season, for running the dawk to and from Rewas to Kolaba in 1838, one runner Bapu Parab by name; was provided one handkerchief of 2 feet length costing Annas<sup>90</sup> 5-3/4. There was only one dawk at Pen, in the Thana District. Officials as well as private letters were sent by this channel to Pen, from where they were forwarded to their several different destinations. Besides the established postage rates of the Bombay Presidency (since 1822); there was a separate sum charged on private letters as 'Pen postage' which was according to the following scale - Not exceeding 1/4 tola, 6 pies. Above 1/4 tola and not exceeding 1 tola, 1 anna. This was considered by the local people to be of a great hardship as no separate dawk runners were employed as the distance was only 22 miles. Private letters to Bombay were sent by this channel and they seldom reached their destination within 48 hours and were even sometimes, during rainy weather, required four to five days on their way. But merchants and people of business in general avoided this

long route, and used to send their letters by the passage-boats under the care of one of the Kolees, who used to receive now and then a little recompense for his efforts.

The amount of the postal revenue collected in Alibag which was very small, was not credited to Kolaba, but was taken by the Thana Zilla which formed an item of the Pen Post Office revenue.

No separate establishment was kept up for this post. The dawk letters were carried by peons belonging to the establishments of the Agent and Mamalatdar.

There were five peons assigned for the special duty of transporting letters between Government and the Agent. The letters were sent to Bombay Via Mandwa, and those for the Agent used to come generally by Alibag passage boat during fair weather and in the monsoon by Mandwa or Rewas<sup>91</sup>.

### **DUTIES ON AN EXPORTED ITEMS**

The Angre Government used to get income from the duty levied on Articles exported. Statement, showing the amount of duty levied on articles exported during the year 1839-40<sup>92</sup> is given below:-



<u>NAME OF ARTICLE</u>	<u>Rs.</u>	<u>Amount of export duty</u> Rs. Annas
1. Salt	3754	13-2
2. Rice	54	7-7
3. Batty	2244	7-9
4. Coconuts	44	9-4
5. Betal leaves	12	11-6
6. Firewood	21	5-11
7. Fish maws	26	8-6
8. Wood (for building purpose)	19	6-5
9. Liquor	2690	12-7
10. Brass-Ware	40	2-7
11. Copper-Ware	15	1-4
12. Sundries	<u>721</u>	<u>15-11</u>
Total	9646	6-7

The following were the imported articles on which duties were collected in the regime of Raghuji Angre.

**NAME OF ARTICLES**

Tobacco, Sugar, Oil, Cotton and Shemby bark<sup>93</sup>.



**Harbours and shipping frequenting them**

There were five bunders or harbours in the Angre’s territory - Viz Revdanda, Alibag, Thal Mandawa and Rewas.

The principal vessels which frequented these ports, very much were from Bombay, for the purpose of taking coconuts, grains, dried fish, salt and firewood to Bombay. Larger vessels, called botellas used to arrive from Jafferabad with cargoes of gram, wheat, tobacco, oil, ghee, and toor dal. A number of small pattimars were also frequently visiting these ports for the purpose of taking cargoes of batty rice and salt to the southern Konkan<sup>94</sup>.

Salt was the only considerable exportable produce of the territory. The average amount of export duty paid upon it annually was Rs, 35,000.

The Angres used to get the average amount of Rs. 2000 as anchorage fees charged upon all boats througout the various ports in the territory.

The rates of anchorage fees were as follows-

From 10 to 20 Bengal Candies					Anchorage fees	
"	20	"	40	"	"	Rs. 1-1/2
"	40	"	60	"	"	Rs. 2
"	60	"	80	"	"	Rs. 2-1/2
"	80	"	100	"	"	3
"	100	"	150	"	"	3-1/2
"	150	"	200	"	"	4
"	200	"	250	"	"	4-1/2
"	250	"	400	"	"	5 average

The Angre Government used to get income from the charges for registering all description of boats viz. boats of merchandize and fishing boats<sup>95</sup>.

### **HOUSE**

Now we will deal with houses, dresses, ornaments, food and education.

Rewdanda and Alibag were the two towns. Both are situated on the sea-shore. Revdanda town contains the houses of all the merchants, trades-men, Brahmins, and a few of the Mussulmans and Kolees. In this town, during Angress regime, there were 1470 houses (95 tiled and 1,375 thatched). There were no main roads. One long line from north to south, inside the walls, serving the purposes of the road, divided the town.

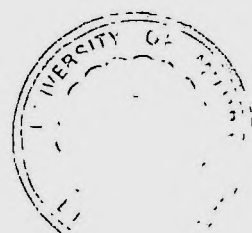
The houses fronting the main thoroughfare were mostly tiled and generally speaking, were well built and not altogether devoid of a comfortable appearance. Revdanda, a few feet above the sea level, was healthy; the houses not being very closely packed together. Nearly every part of the house was exposed to the beneficial influence of the sea breezes. Alibag was next to Revdanda with no much difference in regard to houses. It was the headquarter of the state having a few public buildings. Adalat was situated at the centre of the town. It was constructed in the year 1821-22<sup>96</sup>. It was used as a hall of justice. The building had imposing appearance. The roof was supported by strong wooden pillers and

good thick walls. Hirakote a small fort to the west of the town was used as a jail.

The principal villages in the state were Cheul Nagaon, Akshee, Thal and Kehim, in the bagayat, and Poenar and Rewas in the salt batty lands. The houses belonging to each of the villages were scattered throughout a distance of about eight miles, each house being generally surrounded by a hedge they were nearly invisible from the road owing to the thickness of the plantations, and the luxuriant growth of underwood throughout<sup>97</sup>.

The situation of all the villages throughout the state varied according to local circumstances. The whole number of thatched and tiled houses and huts etc in the state were as follows : Thatched houses, 13105 and tiled 269 the total being 13374<sup>98</sup>.

In the salt batty lands houses were situated on slight elevations, raised a little above the surrounding swamps. In the bagayat, the houses were scattered throughout the plantations. The houses near the seashore were not so clean as those in the interior, the refuse of fish and other vegetable matter being more abundant. The huts were such that large masses of dried leaves, etc. were piled up layer after layer near their huts and were allowed to remain untouched from year to year making the air unfit for respiration<sup>99</sup>. The houses were generally without windows, and the basements very low. At night the inmates used to lie down often on the damp mud floor, shutting in a good quality of deleterious gases<sup>100</sup>.



Next to houses comes the description of dress, ornaments and food of the people in the Angre's territory. Angre's state was surrounded by the region now in Kolaba district. There was no difference in dress, ornaments and food between the people who were in Angre's state and surrounding region which all have become part of Kolaba District. Description of the above mentioned three items have been given in Kolaba District Gazetteer. So the repetition has been avoided here.

### **EDUCATION :**

During the Angre regime there were a few schools in every large village under the superintendence of some poor Brahmin who had generally no other means of gaining a livelihood. Of the boys who were taught in these schools, the greater number were of the Brahmin and Prabhu castes, a few sonars, Musalmans, Marathas, Kolis might sometimes be seen attending them in the towns of Revdanda and Alibag.

The whole course of education consisted in teaching the boys to write and read manuscript, the first rudiments of arithmetic. No printed books were used.

There were about thirty two schools of this kind in the Angre's territory. The number of boys who attended the schools were 320. The sum paid for each boy was between 2 and 4 annas and one piece and half seer of rice at every fortnight.

There were three Beni-Israelitish Schools in the state at Revdanda, Ambepoor and Alibag opened in 1826-29 but they were not well superintended and the teachers who were well paid were not found diligent in their work. These were free schools and were attended by the Beni-Israelitish children; and the system of education was conducted on Christian principles<sup>101</sup>.



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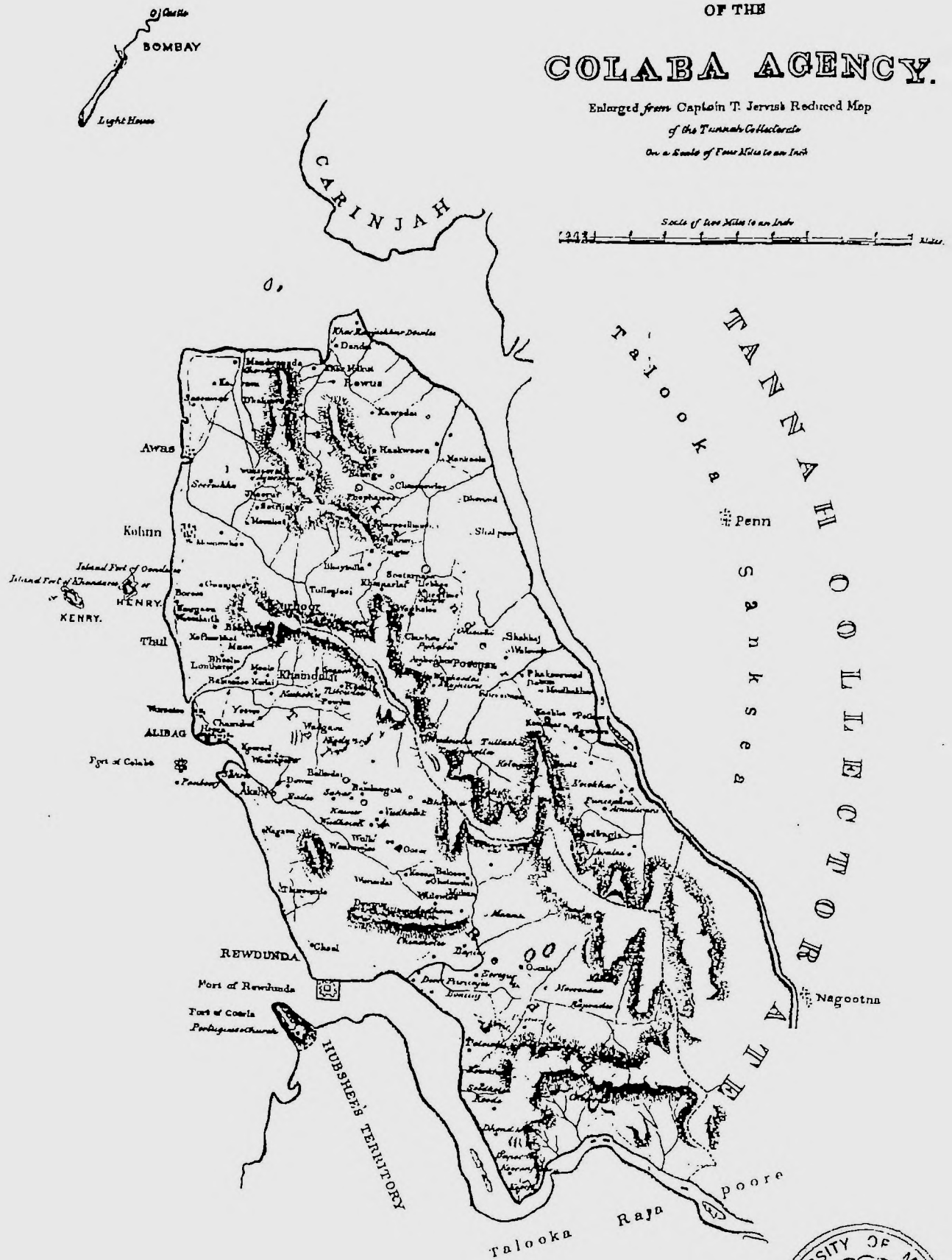
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# MAP

OF THE

## COLABA AGENCY.

Enlarged from Captain T. Jervis's Reduced Map  
of the Tannah Collection  
On a Scale of Four Miles to an Inch



## **CHAPTER X**

### **ANGRE'S NAVY, THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **AND ASSESSMENT**

The founder of the Angre family was Tukoji Sankpal and Kanhoji was his son. He got his name Angre from Angrewadi village in Maval hills, six miles from Poona. During the 18th century, Kanhoji rose to high power both in Kolaba and in Ratnagiri Districts. He worked as second-in-command to Sidoji Gujar, the Sar-Subha of the Maratha navy and when the latter died in 1698 Kanhoji succeeded him. He became admiral of the Marathas. In his capacity as the admiral of the Marathas, Kanhoji did lay his sway over the Sidi of Janjira, the Mughals of Delhi as well as the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English upon the west coast of India. Before explaining Kanhoji's maritime achievements let us state the strength and the organisation of the Angre's navy.

#### **TYPES OF MARATHA WARSHIPS UNDER THE ANGRES :**

We have information about the following main war-ships of the Angres' navy - They were exclusively used as fighting ships: (1) Ghurab, (2) Galabata, (3) Pala, (4) Shibada, (5) Manchwa.

We will make a brief survey of each these types.

#### **(1) GHURAB :**

The Ghurab of the Angre were of two types - two masts upto 150 tons and three masts upto 300 tons. They were broad

in proportion to their length and narrowed from the middle to the ends, where instead of bows they had prow, projecting like that of a Mediterranean gallery. The prow was covered with a strong deck level with the main deck of the vessel and separated from it by a bulk head and firing over the prow. Orme notes that on the main deck under the forecastle were mounted two pieces of cannon of nine or twelve pounders<sup>1</sup>. A ghurab never went into action unless it was accompanied by one or more gallivats.

#### (2) GALABATA

The Galabata - Gallivats as they were called were large row-boats built like ghurab but of smaller size not more than 70 tons. They had two masts a strong main mast of which the mizzen was very slight. The main mast was a regular triangular sail. They had forty to fifty oars and rowed four miles a hour.<sup>2</sup>

#### (3) PALA

The Pala seems to be the largest of all the Maratha ships. It was too big to enter the narrow creek where the galabats and smaller ghurab could go and had to be moored in deeper waters.<sup>3</sup> It resembled the Ghurab in built, having the same rigging. We have no detailed information to differentiate a pala from other vessels. It has been likened by an eighteenth century Portuguese writer with the frigates of Europe.<sup>4</sup>

#### (4) SHIBADA

The Shibada of the later Maratha period had two masts. the after-mast and the bow print were very short. It had not top-sails

very little rigging and was not decked. Its largest sail was stretched on a yard of very great length running to a point many feet higher than the mast. The Shibada sailed well and were fine vessels in fair weather and smooth water. Many were more than 150 tons<sup>5</sup>. They accompanied the ghurab and the pala with light armaments<sup>6</sup>. Hamilton calls a Shibada a half gallery<sup>7</sup>.

#### (5) MANCHWA

The Manchwas accompanied war-ships in case of emergency. Gemelli Careri, who travelled in a Portuguese Manchwa in 1695, describes it as follows -

“These Manchwas had such a Main Sail as the Lentis of Trapan in the kingdom of Sicily, 12 cars and four small guns<sup>8</sup>”.

Eight or ten of these ghurabs and forty or fifty gallivats formed the whole fleet of Kanhoji Angre<sup>9</sup>. On an average a galabata carried hundred men on its board and a ghurab two hundred or more than one hundred and fifty.

The ship itself were under the charge of the Nakhoda, the captain. He had one or two assistants known as Tandels. The Tandels were men of all work combining several duties, connected with rowing of the ships, the handling of the sails, keeping stock of food and water and even acting as cheer leaders<sup>10</sup>.

#### SHIP BUILDING AND THE NATIVE SHIP BUILDERS

As already referred to, there was no dearth of ship building material on the West coast of India as the forests of Konkan yielded



excellent timber. A letter from Surat to London dated 2nd November 1668 alludes to the superiority of the ships built here to those sent from England.

Teak-made ships were expensive it is true, but both Gross and Staverinus testify to their durability. The Dutch Admiral was of the opinion that an Indian ship made of Teak Wood would navigate the seas hundred years together. We learn from the same authority that the natives of India, “have a peculiar way of preserving their ship-bottom, by occasionally rubbing into them oil which they call wood oil, which the planks imbibe, and it serves greatly to nourish and keep them from decay”<sup>10</sup>.

Ramchandrapanta Amatya made a note that for construction of ships useful part of teak and trees should not be cut and collected without royal permission. Whatever wood was necessary should be purchased and brought from foreign countries. He added that it was the duty of the king to see that in no case may it be that the wood of the mango tree, jack tree and other trees is used for building naval ships<sup>11</sup>.

It appears that the use of the compass was known to the Marathas. We have already referred that the Indians from early days were using Matsya-Yandra. The Mariner’s Compass as it is called. In Rajavyaharakosha the word dishayantram has been substituted for Kibulnuma, the Arabic word for Compass<sup>12</sup>. The Shivacharitra-pardeepa also noted the use of the Compass by the Marathas.

**THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE ENGLISH,  
PORTUGUESE AND ANGRE'S NAVY :**

**THE ENGLISH FLEET**

Governor Boone on his arrival put his heart in expanding and strengthening the English fleet. He had three ships built for the purpose,, the “Britanica” of 18 guns at Carwar, the “Fame” of sixteen guns at Surat, “Revenge” of 15 guns at Bombay. A few months later, the Victory, twenty-four guns was launched, and two years after his arrival, Boone had at his disposal a fine fleet consisting of nineteen frigates, ghurabs, ketches, gallivats and rowing galleys, carrying two hundred and twenty guns, besides a bomb vessel and a fire-ship<sup>14</sup>. Thus, the English fleet was strong enough to achieve anything in those days.

**THE PORTUGUESE FLEET**

With their possessions extended from Daman in the north to Goa in the south, the Portuguese kept two fleets to deal with their enemies, the fleet of the North and the fleet of the south, with their principal stations at Bassein in the North and Gôa in the South. In the year 1728 A.D. there were twenty one arm boats at Bassein carrying from sixteen to eighteen pieces of ordinance. The Portuguese did not lag much behind the English in the strength of their navy.



### **ANGRE'S FLEET**

We have read that eight to ten ghurabs and forty to fifty gallivats formed the fleet of Angre's navy.

Though Angre's fleet was numerically superior to those of the European on the West coast, it was vastly inferior in artillery and in the art of navigation. As compared with the Maratha war ships the tonnage of the Angre war ships were very low and their artillery greatly inferior.

This is due to the peculiar factors which exerted the development of the Maratha navy. As we will later on see that the authority was in what may be called territorial waters. They had no oceanic policy and their ships were unable to meet the enemies on high seas<sup>15</sup>.

The Marathas therefore did not or could not think of extending their authority over countries or islands outside or beyond the coast of India. They were content if they could have uninterrupted authority over the coast of their state.

Hence Ramchandrapanta Amtaya issued following instructions in his Ajnapatra regarding the size of the warships, "Fast ghurabs, neither very great nor very small should be made of middle size. Similarly galabats should be built. It is not necessary to build them very large ones as these are not useful without the help of the wind. Even if one or two are made to create dread in the enemy still whatever naval force is created should be fully well-equipped with

brave and efficient fighters, guns, shot-guns, match locks, ammunition, grenades and other materials of naval use”<sup>16</sup>.

### **THE ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE MARATHA NAVY UNDER KANHOJI**

Kanhoji's naval establishments were vast. Before he came into conflict with Maharaja Shahu he possessed ten forts and sixteen Mahals<sup>17</sup>. By his agreement with Maharaj Shahu, Kanhoji acquired Rajmachi and a few other forts. In his treaty with the Sidi, the latter returned to Kanhoji many number of places<sup>18</sup>.

From the original papers, it seems that Kanhoji posted his officers - Ammaldars and Subhedars to look after the particular Subha or Mahal.

We have a list of Ammaldars at Suvarnadurga and Subhedars at Vijaydurga.

#### **AMMALDARS AT SUVARNADURGA**

- 1) Dattaji Angre - Kanhoji's cousin.
- 2) Trimbak Ganesh
- 3) Bakaji Naik Mahadik
- 4) Dattaji Jachak
- 5) Haraji Naik Kadam
- 6) Mirza Barge
- 7) Motyajirao Vichare,
- 8) Rudraji Dhulap,
- 9) Baburao Satam,
- 10) Ramaji Patel<sup>19</sup>

### SUBHEDARS AT VIJAYADURGA

- 1) Rudraji Anant Subhedar
- 2) Mahadaji Ballal Subhedar
- 3) Kashi Raghunath Subhedar
- 4) Shivaji Trimbak Subhedar

In his achievements in the Konkan, Kanhoji Angre was assisted by powerful nobles under him, who were honoured by Maharaja Shahu by grants of villages and Palanquin. They were

- 1) Sekhoji Mohite
- 2) Ranoji Gole
- 3) Khandoji Mankar
- 4) Rumajirao Kharade
- 5) Krishnaji Mode
- 6) Hasan Khan Jamadar<sup>21</sup>

Besides the information that Kanhoji had established matrimonial relations with some of these we have almost no information about their achievements<sup>22</sup>.

As regards the organisation of navy, Ramchandrapanta lays down in his Ajnapatra that navy should be arranged in separate units. The unit should contain five ghurabs and fifteen gallivats over all of them there should be one head-governor or admiral<sup>23</sup>.

We do not exactly know as to how the units in Kanhoji's navy constituted and functioned. He must have some such arrangement no doubt. A Portuguese account informs us that Kanhoji renewed



his proposals for exchanging prisoners by the desire of securing the liberty of Shivaji Naik, one of his captains<sup>24</sup>.

The sheltering of Ajnapatra discusses fully as to why the sheltering of ships should not be done in the same place every year. He adds that the fleet should be distributed at various places. The Subhedar should look after the arrangement of the fleet<sup>25</sup>. He should write to the Central Government for getting the necessary things and should make arrangements for the same. Kanhoji Angre must also have some arrangements. We do not know the exact nature of the same.

#### I. NAVAL WARFARE :

Since the beginning of the Maratha navy the Marathas had to fight hard to maintain themselves against no less than six rivals, the English, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the fleets of the Sidi, the Mughal and the Sawant Wadi. As the admiral of the Marathas, Kanhoji claimed the superiority of the sea and compelled the maritime powers as well as the traders of all nations to purchase his passes. The European powers, the English, the Portuguese and the Dutch, with their superior arms and ammunition were not expected to admit Kanhoji's claims unless compelled by superior force to do so. The Maratha Admiral was involved in most of which he proved himself if not superior a formidable equal.

Yet it must be noted that the Marathas achieved these victories against their European rivals in spite of their inferiority in the arms

and ammunition. This is due to the peculiar methods evolved and perfected by them in their engagements with their enemies. The Maratha took all the advantage of the natural position of their land and the equipments at their disposal.

The small Maratha vessels sailed close to the Coast and sought shelter in the familiar creeks and estuaries when pursued by an enemy vessel. The Maratha vessels were noted for their speed. The big ships of the Europeans could not effectively pursue them. The Maratha vessels like the Europeans big ships were not dependent on the wind for their movements. In case of an unfavourable wind these light vessels could be rowed and towed by oars in the desired direction.

Benjamin Hall, Purser of the Derby while giving a detailed account of the fighting method of the Maratha navy notes , “Their ghurabs and gallivats, always keep astern of our ships, so close that there is no danger of their missing you when they fire their power guns, which were six pounders. They tack and give you a broadside, and shear off and lead again. But in the time another ghurab comes up, and fire on us in the same manner, and so goes off, that the next may come. This is the method they take , till they have all fired round, when the first comes up again”<sup>26</sup> Thus they keep continuously firing at the enemy ship.

## II. ACHIEVEMENTS :

To go right perspective of Kanhoji's maritime activities, they must be viewed as a part of the general struggle of the Maratha



nation against the Mughal conquest of their home land. The chief objective to which his policy was directed was to recover Maratha territory occupied by the Sidis during the interim that followed Sambhaji's execution, drive the Sidi to his island, retreat annihilate his independence and render him powerless for mischief<sup>28</sup>. The western seas were to be Maratha waters and all who visited ports established in them were to be taught to repeat the Maratha sovereignty and secure his permission for trading in these water by buying his passes. Whatever power refused to conform to his orders would do so at the peril of bringing on its merchantmen his stronghand. Kanhoji Angre overcome all his adversaries and sucessfully maintained the claims of the Marathas to the sovereignty of the sea against the Sidi, the Dutch, the English and the Portuguese. He developed the naval unit of the Marathas into a strong navy, which was dreaded by its enemies even after his death till 1756, when a major portion of Angres navy was destroyed by the combined forces of the Peshwa and the English.

At the time of the treaty, with Shahu Maharaj on 18th February 1714, Kanhoji Angre had ten forts and sixteen mahals, the forts being

- 1) Khanderi
- 2) Kolaba
- 3) Suvarnadurg
- 4) Vijayadurg
- 5) Jayagad

- 6) Deogad
- 7) Kanakdurg
- 8) Fettegad
- 9) Awarhitgad
- 10) Yeshwantgad

and the Mahals being

- 1) Bahirogad
- 2) Kotala
- 3) Vikasgad
- 4) Manikdurg
- 5) Mirgad
- 6) Sargad
- 7) Rasalgad
- 8) Palagad
- 9) Ramdurg
- 10) Kharepatan
- 11) Rajapur
- 12) Satwata
- 13) Kamate
- 14) Sagargad
- 15) Shrivardhan
- 16) Manranjan<sup>29</sup>

By the treaty of 8th February 1724 between Balaji Vishwanath, the Maharaj Peshwa and Kanhoji Angre, agreed to accept the suzerainty of Shahu Maharaj. The Maharaj appointed him to the

permanent grant of the three districts that comprised the Konkan. Kanhoji was entrusted with the task of guarding the coast. As a result of the treaty of Kolaba, Kanhoji Angre obtained control over ten sea-side forts and sixteen land-side forts. His annual income from the territory placed under his authority was thirty-six lakhs of rupees. He was confirmed as the Sarkhel and Vazarat Ma-aab hereditary perpetuity<sup>30</sup>.

So long as Kanhoji was living, Konkan was safe against all foreigners. In 1715, the Portuguese were supreme at Bassein, Thana, Goa and Chaul; the English at Bombay, and the Sidis at Janjira. Against all these the Angre had to fight constantly and though he could overwhelm any of these, he surely dreaded their combination. After treaty that took place between Shahu Maharaj and Kanhoji Angre through the good offices of Peshwa Balaji Yeshwant all enemies of Angre became the enemies of Maratha kingdom and thus the unity of interest drew Kanhoji even close to the Maharaj of Maharashtra. In one direction at least the treaty contributed to the unity of Maharashtra.

However Kanhoji Angre's war with the English continued with pauses at intervals. When pressed in the other quarters Angre would wave the olive branch and express willingness to make peace. In 1723, the Angre offered to discuss peace terms with William Phillips, the new Governor of Bombay, Phillips haughtily turned down the proposal charging the Angre with piracy; before he could hear of any of the terms, he asked the Maratha commander to renounce



war and as a proof of his sincerity demanded immediate release of prisoners. This called forth Kanhoji's ire, he replied, "If little behaved merchants to say that his Government was supported by violence, insults and piracies; for the great Shivaji founded his kingdom by making war against four kings and that he himself was but his humble disciple; that he was ever willing to favour the merchants trading according to laws of the country" and offered the release of the English prisoners if his men imprisoned by the English were set at liberty.<sup>31</sup> Kanhoji's last act of hostility against the English was the seizure of the company's galley King William in 1728. He died on 4th July 1729, in the plenitude of power and prestige.

The death of Kanhoji Angre forms a turning point in Anglo-Maratha relations which were all along marked with the greatest acerbity on both sides. The Angre's restless energy, resourcefulness and daring had brought the Maratha navy to a high pitch of efficiency and developed into a strong striking force. His authority was supreme in Konkan and his exclusive writ ran in that region. The foreign powers saw in him the represent alive of Maratha authority, the symbol of a mighty nation. Agreement of Kanhoji Angre with Shahu Maharaj strengthened Kanhoji's position with the support of central Maratha power whether in negotiation or in war. Kanhoji Angre also always maintained happy relations with the Central Maratha Government . Kanhoji had close relations with the family of the Peshwa. Balaji Vishwanath regarded Kanhoji as his brother, and we find Bajirao I addressing Kanhoji Angre as Uncle Kanhoji

Kaka<sup>32</sup>. Kanhoji Angre in letter to Bajirao I said that he considered the latter as nearest relative<sup>33</sup>.

We have come across seals of Kanhoji Angre which proved beyond doubt that Angre was acting as a constituent unit of the Central Maratha Government. The first seal ( Seal I ) though imbibed on a letter dated 1720 A.D., the seal belongs to the period prior to Rajaram's death.

It reads,

“Kanhoji, the son of Tukoji, is always at the service of Rajaram”.

Another seal (Seal II) is marked on a letter<sup>35</sup> dated 1728 A.D. The seal belongs to the period after Kanhoji Angre offered his allegiance to Shahu Maharaj.

It reads,

“The Seal of Kanhoji Sarkhel, the son of Tukoji, is victorious because of the love of Chatrapati Shahu”.

The early development in the line of the Confederacy of the Marathas, particularly in the case of Kanhoji Angre can be accounted Kanhoji Angre was a sea power and the Central Government to entangled in the politics overland could little provide attention to the development of the naval power of the Mrathas. This necessitated that the Maratha Admiral should enjoy some special status after he had offered his allegiance to the Maratha Authority.

As already noticed Kanhoji Angre in his letter to the Government of Bombay, wrote that he was a follower of Shivaji, who had laid the foundation of the Maratha state. Kanhoji Angre invariably succeeded against his opponents and maintained unto his last the claims of the Marathas to the sovereignty of the sea.

Even when the Portuguese were at war with Kanhoji Angre the subjects of the Portuguese acknowledged his claims by purchasing his passes. We have already seen that even the General of the North, Louis de Mello, thought it wise to purchase Kanhoji's passes for the safe arrival of the ships of his brother Lope de Mello.

Kanhoji Angre was not only a good soldier he was diplomat also. We have already noticed how he had foiled many attempts of the English and the Portuguese to join hands together against the Maratha Admiral. From 1715 to 1724 A.D. Kanhoji had almost secured the neutrality of the Sidi and hence the complaints of the English and the Portuguese to the Mughal Emperor against the Sidi. In his arguments also Kanhoji had won against the English. Kanhoji wrote persuasive, threatening and sarcastic letters as the occasion demanded.

Kanhoji Angre could not be accused of treachery or faithlessness. Usually Kanhoji kept his words. But at the same time Kanhoji could not tolerate being cheated by others. Kanhoji agreed that he would not molest ships belonging to the English. But he would not allow the ships carrying the cargo of other merchants,

the same facilities which was a definite loss to him. He indeed wrote it was as if the Company wants to carry trade under its Colours.

Kanhoji Angre never violated the treaty concluded with Shahu Maharaj or with Portuguese on behalf of Shahu Maharaj. We have already referred to the treaty concluded by Bajirao I with the Portuguese in January 1722 A.D. Kanhoji's fleet met some Portuguese boats in October 1722 A.D. but allowed them to proceed on their journey as soon as their nationality was known.<sup>36</sup> In the next year Kanhoji even permitted some Portuguese vessels to take provisions at the port of Vijajyadurga<sup>37</sup>. We have it from the Portuguese that Kanhoji never interfered with the Portuguese merchant men or fleet unless they were at war with him.

Thus Kanhoji Angre enforced the Maratha claims on the sea against the mighty European powers such as the English, the Portuguese and the Dutch till his death. Shivaji had laid the foundation of the Maratha navy. During the period following Shivaji's death and the invasion of the Emperor Aurangzeb it was hardly expected that the Maratha Navy would service. But Kanhoji Angre with vigorous efforts strengthened the small naval unit of the Marathas into a powerful naval power, which was dreaded by the European powers in India. All their efforts to crush the naval power of Kanhoji Angre proved futile. Kanhoji Angre indeed placed the Maratha Navy on a secure footing. Kanhoji died on 4th July 1729. Kanhoji's death brought about a change in the situation and resulted in new alignment. Kanhoji Angre left six sons, two legitimate Sekhoji and Sambhaji

and four illegitimate, Tulaji, Manaji, Dhondji and Yasaji. Sekhoji became a Sarkhel by establishing himself at Kolaba. Sambhaji the younger established at Suvarnadurg in Ratnagiri. This division greatly reduced the power of the Angre. Sekhoji was most capable and sanest among them.

### **STEPS TAKEN BY THE PESHWA TO WEAKEN THE ANGRE POWER :**

On hearing from the Brahmendra Swami Dhavadshikar how Sidi ruin the temple of Parshuram, Maharaj Shahu decided to send expedition against the Sidi. He deputed the Pratinidhi in Konkan. But the affairs of the Konkan fell into disorder on account of quarrels between Sekhoji and his brother Sambhaji. This was fermented by Bajirao and Brahmendra Swami to weaken the Angre's power.

In the reign of Sekhoji Angre, the importance of Kolaba as a naval checkpost, increased still more. In November 1730 he led nine ships and four ghurabs and caught the English fleet in the sea near Revadanda and Thervanda. Having vanquished them, he brought the English ships to Kolaba. The details of this battle can be found in the historical poem (Powada) by Shaiv-Mayuresh, a poet during the Angre period.

On May 26, 1733, Bajirao wrote to Ambajipant Purandare, Sarkhel. Sekhoji Angre came and stayed here nearly for fifteen days. Having got a hint, he ransacked Rajpuri Khokari. He became the





leader and the rest of the army followed him in looting. Whatever was found was sent to Kolaba. We did not know anything about the ransack, he gave some of it to them. There were five ghurabs and some ships which were sent to Colaba. Since his residence and Kolaba were not well protected, he had to go. Manaji has kept nearly seven to eight hundred people here. Baankot is under the Sarkhel. He has agreed to collect some selected people and attack Underi. (Purandare Daftar I letter No. 104) This extract reveals the working of the minds of Bajirao and Sekhoji as well as the original naval power and increased power of Kolaba. Bajirao Peshwa also resolved to take up the Konkan affairs in his hand with the intention of becoming supreme in the Konkan by liquidating the Sidi, the Portuguese and the Angre. On his arrival in Konkan, Bajirao set Sekhoji against Pratinidhi. Sekhoji's Sardar Bakaji Naik who wanted to invest Govalkot which was in the possession of Sidi got advice from the Pratinidhi to desist from the attack as the Sidi had promised him (Pratinidhi to pay his respect to Shahu Maharaj at Satara and stop the war provided the Angre was driven out of Konkan. Bakaji Naik went back to his master Sekhoji Angre and spoke the mind of the Pratinidhi. After getting disappointed with the performance of the Pratinidhi in Konkan, Shahu Maharaj called him back and asked Bajirao to take supreme command of Konkan expedition. While Pratinidhi was in Konkan Bajirao after arriving in Konkan suggested to Sekhoji three alternatives for prosecuting the Konkan campaign. Thereupon Sekhoji requested Bajirao to take up full command of the expedition against Sidi and lead campaign

by his side to serve and assist him. In the operation against the Sidis, the whole Angre family was assisting Peshwa Bajirao. Sekhoji maintained most cordial relations with the Peshwa. But after his death at Alibag on 28th August 1733 his brother Sambhaji came to Kolaba and took up the command of the fleet. His relations with the Peshwa were not friendly. Between Sekhoji and Sambhaji there was a longstanding feud. As Bajirao had supported Sekhoji, Sambhaji started giving scant respect to the Peshwa's orders. When Sambhaji took command of the Kolaba fleet, the Peshwa asked him to meet him at Rajapuri for personal discussion. Sambhaji declined to meet the Peshwa. Thus Sambhaji insulted the Peshwa. Sambhaji wanted to do away with Manaji whom he suspected as partisan of the Peshwa and Brahmendra Swami. When Manaji suspected treacherous behaviour of his brother Sambhaji towards him, Manaji got assistance from the Peshwa who repulsed Sambhaji's attack. Because of Sambhaji's hectic behaviour he became unpopular with Bajirao, Brahmendra Swami and Shahu Maharaj.

There was a tussle between the two brothers Sambhaji and Manaji after the death of Sekhoji. It resulted in the besiege of Kolaba by both of them. Sambhaji expelled Manaji from Kolaba, forced him to take asylum with the Portuguese at Revadanda and with the assistance from the Peshwa Manaji captured Kolaba in 1735. Of course, the defeated Sambhaji had to go to Suvarna Durg. Having arrested Dhondaji in February 1735 Manaji established his power and started his administration.

After the unique battle of Bassein, the Portuguese power in the north Konkan was totally wiped out. In the discussion over the Portuguese treaty, Chimaji Appa conveyed to the English envoy "Both the Angres were pirates, robbers, senseless impolitic fellows". Inchbird agreed, saying "they were past all cure and it was labour in vain to reclaim them". Chimaji told the envoy that "if the English were ready to act in co-operation with a Maratha force to destroy the pirate next season he would himself come down and join the English in taking all Angre's forts and country.

The Peshwa's treaty ending the war with the Portuguese contained an article which provided for joint action for destroying the Angre. This shows how Angre's activities in Konkan were running counter to the interest of the Peshwa.

Palace politics between Manaji and Sambhaji once again in 1740 assumed disastrous dimensions. Sambhaji, along with his naval fleet came to village Sarkhel in March and hoisted his flag on the Hirakote of Alibag which proved to be the beginning of the war of Kolaba. But Chimaji Appa and Nana Saheb were quite abreast of the moves of Sambhaji. They captured Pali, Meergad and Uran and just turned towards Kolaba, Sambhaji had to flee from there. Sambhaji died on 30th June, 1743 and the first phase of palace politics came to an end.

In 1752 the relation between Manaji Angre and Ramaji Mahadeo, Peshwa's subhedar of Saashti and Uran were strained and resulted into battle. Ramaji's spys in Kolaba were caught and

executed by the Angre. Ramaji Mahadev contrived to persuade Moraji Sind and the two fold war on land and at sea between the Angre and the Peshwa was started.

In the naval skirmish of October, 1752 veterans like Yashwantrao Surve and Kanhoji Shirke died. Many fisherman on the side of Angre also died. The uncertainty of war continued till January 1754. Moraji Shinde the Subedar of Revdanda made preparations once again, to attack Kolaba. On January 22, Manaji attacked Shinde and defeated him. Anandrao Balkavade the Subhedar of Awachitgad, who joined this war on the side of Shinde died in this battle. The people of Angre looted a little but afterwards, Moraji had to lift up the siege and go back. When the Peshwa learnt about it he reprimanded Moraji and about it he and Ramaji Mahadev and ordered them not to harass the Angre of Kolaba. Finally, the war stopped, for the first time, we get the detailed account of this war.

Sarkhel Tulaji Angre who got his Sarkhelship on 11th January 1745 became more powerful. He was attacked by the English fleet and the Peshwa's fleet and army in February 1756. Before that Admiral Watson who participated in the siege of Gheria and destruction of Angre's navy described Tulaji's teritory as follows: "His territories extended from Bombay to Malvan to the South a sea port about 120 miles from it and they spread inland near 76 miles. He had four excellent ports including Dabhol, island of Khanderi and Underi. He was residing in the fort of Alibag and

Kolaba. These places were well peopled and the inhabitants were quite submissive to their sovereign. Gheria his naval base has an excellent harbour in which the tide rise and falls as regularly as in the river Thames.

After destruction of Angre's navy in 1756 the English acquired Bankot and 12 villages and the Peshwa got rest of the territory of the Angre in Konkan except the territory which remained with the Angre family. In 1759, Raghuji Angre got robes of honour from the Peshwa on the same day, while the cannons were being fired, there was fire for the third time. Rahibai, the wife of Manaji died at Kolaba on September, 1764. Raghoji Angre started the construction of a water tank in the Kolaba fort in February 1766.

For some time let us keep aside the point how far Manaji, Sambhaji and Tulaji, the violent persons of the Angre family were useful to the Maratha state. But it is clear that since all the three were irascible and freakish they were not so helpful to the state as they ought to have been. They were rude with the Peshwa and the king himself as much as they could afford. A streak of this tendency was present in Kanhoji and Sekhoji. But Raghoji Angre was an exception to it. He helped Visaji Pant the resourceful Sursubhedar of the Peshwa and Ramaji Pant in every possible way. In February 1766, some fifteen ships and two ghurabs left Colaba naval base and reached Revadanda, to help the fleet of the Peshwa. Raghuji Angre himself joined Visaji Pant in his expedition of Hate province. Raghuji went to meet Mrs. Parvatibai Peshwe in 1764 when she came to her father's house in Pen.





In May, 1770 Kolaba caught fire once again. This time the fire was all pervading all embracing Pinjar turret, Surya turret and four other turrets, two grainaries, two stables, a small bungalow, old palace and Kanhoba math. All these and many other buildings were burnt to ashes. Some people died of their burns; the Diwan was injured. The total loss ran into some lakhs of rupees Mr. Parasnis has made a mistake of ten years while giving the exact date of this event after referring the original papers.

When her Holiness Mrs. Ramabai, the wife of Madhavarao the great, went on a pilgrimage of Hareshwar and Shriwardhan in 1772, Raghuji Angre and Visaji Pant Sursubhedar went from Kolaba Revadana to greet her so as to show their high regard for her. The Angres offered robes of respect (Najrana). In spite of being the rival and enemy Sidi showed his sense of hospitality and reverence for Ramabai by sending his son, Khan Jada to greet and offer her robes of respect (Najrana). In April, 1774 Angre declared the happy tiding of the birth of Sawai Madhavrao by firing cannons.

According to earlier practice Angre used to raid and confiscate the ships without a permit either from him or from the Peshwa, so as to keep his naval supremacy intact and unchallenged. His navy used to parade constantly to serve this purpose. In January 1783, two ships of an English money lender were caught but his people set them on fire. In 1784, the Angres caught one cargo leader Arabian ships, costing nearly 3 3 1/2 lakhs and brought it to Kolaba. In 1787 and in 1791 one ship respectively was caught. In April

1792 a French ship carrying silk, copper and iron was caught and was emptied at Kolaba.

These events are a testimony to Angres power on the Sea.

In 1787 Kolaba fort caught fire once again, in which Peer Watch tower and the palaces of Angre and Satarkar were burnt completely.

On March 27, 1793 Raghoji Angre died after a short illness for 8 days. After his death, his sons Manaji and Jaysingh rao had a quarrel on the issue of sucession Jaysingh rao drove Manaji who was compelled to seek help from the Peshwa. This time, Madhavrao, the son of Haripant Phadke, attacked Jaysinghrao, on behalf of the Peshwa. Arrangements were made for him to get conns, sailars and all the other required material from Anandrao, Shinde the Subhedar of Revadanda. Madhavrao's army set on fire Yeshwant Paal which was anchored in the creek of Sarkhar, On February 8, 1794 there was a battle between Madhavrao and Dhondbhat Shaiv near Alibag and Varsoli. Second battle was faught at Sangmeshwar in Alibag taluka. In March third battle between Madhavrao and Jaysingh rao took place at Swkhar in which both the sides suffered a terrible loss.

It seems that the second Civil War was more disastrous for the Angres than the first one between Manaji and Sambhaji Angre. During the first Civil war Angre and the Peshwa were so powerful that the third outsider could not meddle with in his own interest.

The power of the Sidi and the Portuguese was reduced so much that neither of them could make good of it. Though English diplomacy started showing its power, English naval power had not settled till then. In the first Civil War the Angres fought with each other but the third outsider could not turn this feud to his advantage. During the last fifty years the situation changed drastically. During the second civil war though Angre and the Peshwa were the powers to reckon with, the English naval power grew so strong that it could face them simultaneously and keep them under control. In 1753 English navy captured Tulaji's Vijaydurg and returned it but not willingly and not to respect the word of the Peshwa. When they returned it was only a skeleton, mere structure of stonewalks. Vijaydurg episode illustrates how much the English naval power had increased 30 years before this Civil war. The English naval power grew from strength to strength during the last thirty years. The English were eager to make good of the internal rift and turn it to their advantage. Besides, during this period betrayal and conspiracy were growing rampant and since many of the events of this kind happened in Kolaba, Angre's power was undermined. In April 1795 with the help of Arabs people and Hasul Jamadar, Anandibai Angre arrested Jaysinghrao and put him in one of the bungalows in the fort. His assistants were sent to different places like Khanderi and Sagargad. Strangely enough, Jaysinghrao managed his release from the prison and went to Cheul. The battle field was changed and Jaysinghrao got the benefit of it. In September 1796, with the help of Nagoji Angre, Jaysinghrao fled from the Ekveera Bhawani Temple



and captured Hatale of Naagaon, There after Jaysing made three division of his force and marched via Kurul and on 4th September Alibag fell in his hands. (Angre Shakavali p.135). The real rival of Jaysinghrao was not Manaji II but Anandibai Angre, who died in the Kolaba fort on December 3, 1796; she was cremated near Yeshwant gate of the fort. As long as she was alive Jaysinghrao could not capture the fort. The Sidi of Janjira thought it would be better if he could interfere in palace politics and could turn it to his advantage. Some ships of Sidi's fleet. It started turning towards Janjira but Jaysinghrao chased them upto Padmadurg.

Manaji II had lost all hopes of getting the title of Sarkhel, but Baburao Angre entered into this merely to extinguish war under the pretext of helping of him. In February, 1797 a skirmish took place between the fleet of Jaysinghrao and Baburao, in which Jaysinghrao came out triumphantly. In the month of March, there was a meeting between Jaysinghrao and Manaji II in 1797, it appeared this civil war would come to an end and Jaysinghrao would be the Admiral. But at the end of this year, Baburao Angre who got help from Scindias army entered into the territory on 18th January 1798. Jaysinghrao was arrested and in 1799 all the forts of Jaysinghrao, except Khanderi were captured by Baburao, who became the Sarkhel. In this way the civil war between various persons of Angre family routed many members of renown and ended in weakening the Angre dynasty. After Baburao Manaji II became the Admiral again. But now the rowers and property of Angre was

in its wane and how long it would survive was the thing of everybody's guess. In brief, it can be said that nearly 10-12 persons of great ability family lost their lives in this Civil War and in later years this state had to be merged for want of legal heir. To some extent Tulaji and his successors may also be blamed for the downfall of the Angres, as they could not adjust themselves to the changed circumstances.

On the advice of Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath Shahu Maharaj marked Konkan as Angre's sphere of influence and gave him a free rein in that field. Bajirao I and his son thought of advancing their power in Konkan. The Peshwas got advantage of failure of the Angre brothers in coming to an understanding among themselves and their neighbours. The Peshwa made arrangement to isolate the naval command and dry up the sources of the Maratha fleet. To keep alive his fleet Tulaji Angre entered into a war with the Sawant, Vishalgad, Bavada and Kolhapur. Not only that, he also raided Malbar ports and preyed on merchant shipping. His activities on land and sea made him repugnant to all Maratha chiefs and foreign maritime powers - the English, the Portuguese and the Dutch. The Peshwa in his capacity as the head of the state and the supreme law giver, took it upon himself to champion the cause of the smaller chieftains and entered into alliance with the English to subdue and uproot Tulaji Angre. Destruction of Angre's power was complete in 1756. Here Balaji Bajirao made a mistake in seeking foreign help in domestic affairs. Thereafter the English tried their best to play



the game of diplomacy and could emerge as a strong power because the native powers were divided among themselves. Even then the presence of the Angres on the west coast adversely affected the English in Bombay. The trade of the English suffered, their ships were captured, their men were taken prisoners and their goods were seized. As the Angres who were divided among themselves began quarrelling amongst themselves. This division weakened their strength and reduced their capacity to harm the English at Bombay. The English kept up their dissension. This policy yielded rich dividends and resulted in complete ruin of the house of the Angres.



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76. B. G. Selection No. VII p. 59.
77. B. G. Selection Vol. VII p. 60-61.
78. Ibid, p.63.
79. Ibid, p.64.
80. Agris literally gardeners. They are found along creek bank Alibag and Pen. Some of them are Mithagaris, Saltmakers and tillers of the salt, rice lands (Kolaba, Gazetteers old series p.51)
81. Apte, op. cit p.65.
82. Avalaskar, Angre Kalin Ashtagar.
83. Choksey, Ratnagiri Collectorate, p. 190.
84. Kolaba Gazetteer (old series) p. 169
85. Government Selection No. VII p.64.



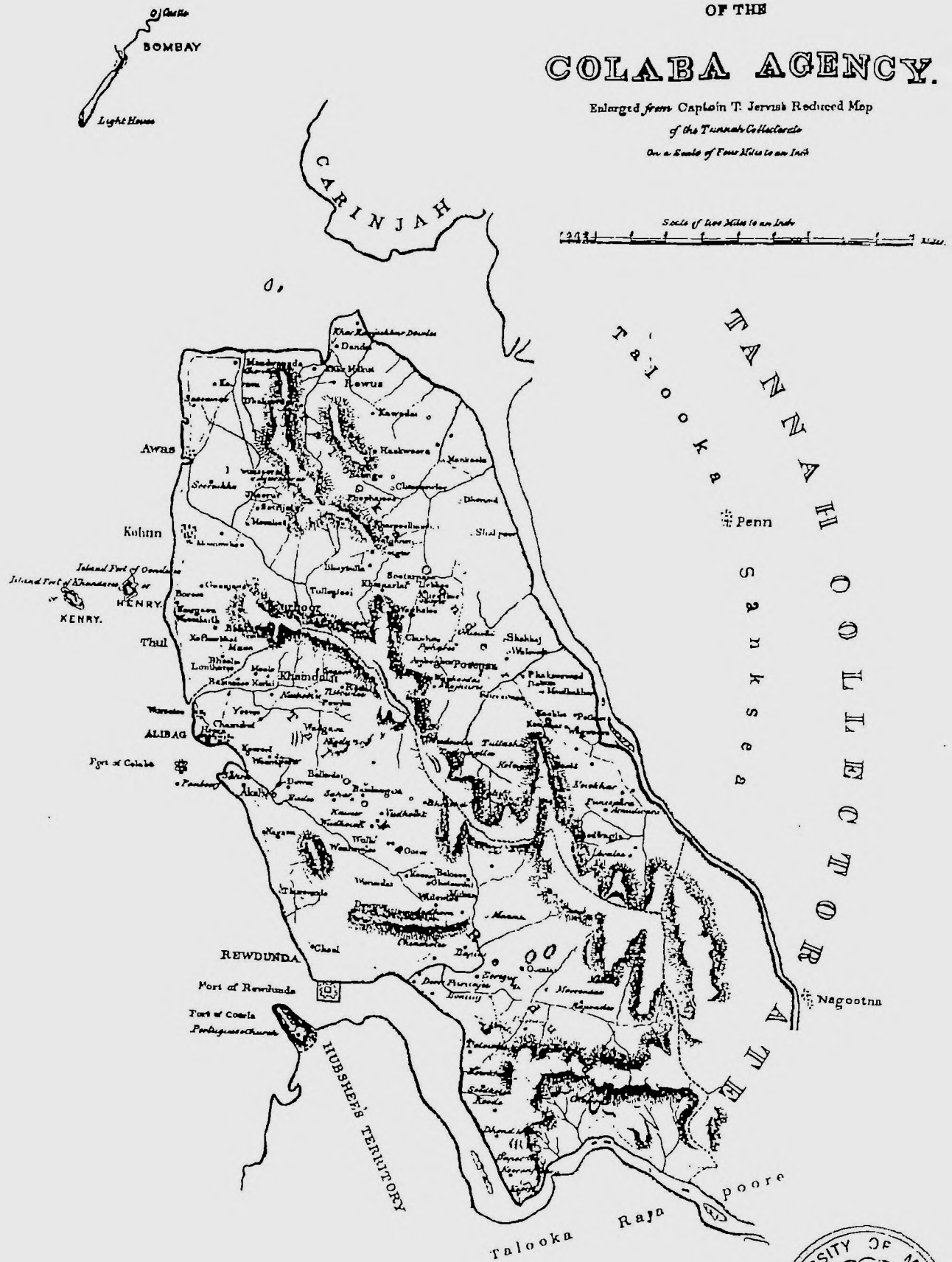
86. Angre Duftar Rimal 249 & 47 given ample information.  
Avalaskar, Nagav p. 105.
87. Bombay Government Selection No. VII p.89
88. Ibid, p.90
89. Ibid, Statement No.1 attached to p.90.
90. Dhabu, Kolabkar Angre Sarkhel, p.336.
91. B. G. Selection No. VII PP. 109-110.
92. Ibid, Statment No.1 on page 90
93. Ibid, p.90 Statement No.2
94. Ibid, p.91
95. Ibid, p.92.
96. Ibid, p.42
97. Ibid, p.89
98. Angre Daftar Rimal 249, Pudka 5
99. B. G. Selection VII p.90
100. Dhabu, Kolabkar Angre Sarkhel p.336.
101. B. G. Selection VII PP. 109-110.

# MAP

OF THE

## COLABA AGENCY.

Enlarged from Captain T. Jervis's Reduced Map  
of the Tannah Collection  
On a Scale of Four Miles to an Inch



## **CHAPTER X**

### **ANGRE'S NAVY, THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **AND ASSESSMENT**

The founder of the Angre family was Tukoji Sankpal and Kanhoji was his son. He got his name Angre from Angrewadi village in Maval hills, six miles from Poona. During the 18th century, Kanhoji rose to high power both in Kolaba and in Ratnagiri Districts. He worked as second-in-command to Sidoji Gujar, the Sar-Subha of the Maratha navy and when the latter died in 1698 Kanhoji succeeded him. He became admiral of the Marathas. In his capacity as the admiral of the Marathas, Kanhoji did lay his sway over the Sidi of Janjira, the Mughals of Delhi as well as the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English upon the west coast of India. Before explaining Kanhoji's maritime achievements let us state the strength and the organisation of the Angre's navy.

#### **TYPES OF MARATHA WARSHIPS UNDER THE ANGRES :**

We have information about the following main war-ships of the Angres' navy - They were exclusively used as fighting ships: (1) Ghurab, (2) Galabata, (3) Pala, (4) Shibada, (5) Manchwa.

We will make a brief survey of each these types.

#### **(1) GHURAB :**

The Ghurab of the Angre were of two types - two masts upto 150 tons and three masts upto 300 tons. They were broad

in proportion to their length and narrowed from the middle to the ends, where instead of bows they had prow, projecting like that of a Mediterranean gallery. The prow was covered with a strong deck level with the main deck of the vessel and separated from it by a bulk head and firing over the prow. Orme notes that on the main deck under the forecastle were mounted two pieces of cannon of nine or twelve pounders<sup>1</sup>. A ghurab never went into action unless it was accompanied by one or more gallivats.

#### (2) GALABATA

The Galabata - Gallivats as they were called were large row-boats built like ghurab but of smaller size not more than 70 tons. They had two masts a strong main mast of which the mizzen was very slight. The main mast was a regular triangular sail. They had forty to fifty oars and rowed four miles a hour.<sup>2</sup>

#### (3) PALA

The Pala seems to be the largest of all the Maratha ships. It was too big to enter the narrow creek where the galabats and smaller ghurab could go and had to be moored in deeper waters.<sup>3</sup> It resembled the Ghurab in built, having the same rigging. We have no detailed information to differentiate a pala from other vessels. It has been likened by an eighteenth century Portuguese writer with the frigates of Europe.<sup>4</sup>

#### (4) SHIBADA

The Shibada of the later Maratha period had two masts. the after-mast and the bow print were very short. It had not top-sails

very little rigging and was not decked. Its largest sail was stretched on a yard of very great length running to a point many feet higher than the mast. The Shibada sailed well and were fine vessels in fair weather and smooth water. Many were more than 150 tons<sup>5</sup>. They accompanied the ghurab and the pala with light armaments<sup>6</sup>. Hamilton calls a Shibada a half gallery<sup>7</sup>.

#### (5) MANCHWA

The Manchwas accompanied war-ships in case of emergency. Gemelli Careri, who travelled in a Portuguese Manchwa in 1695, describes it as follows -

“These Manchwas had such a Main Sail as the Lentis of Trapan in the kingdom of Sicily, 12 cars and four small guns<sup>8</sup>”.

Eight or ten of these ghurabs and forty or fifty gallivats formed the whole fleet of Kanhoji Angre<sup>9</sup>. On an average a galabata carried hundred men on its board and a ghurab two hundred or more than one hundred and fifty.

The ship itself were under the charge of the Nakhoda, the captain. He had one or two assistants known as Tandels. The Tandels were men of all work combining several duties, connected with rowing of the ships, the handling of the sails, keeping stock of food and water and even acting as cheer leaders<sup>10</sup>.

#### SHIP BUILDING AND THE NATIVE SHIP BUILDERS

As already referred to, there was no dearth of ship building material on the West coast of India as the forests of Konkan yielded



excellent timber. A letter from Surat to London dated 2nd November 1668 alludes to the superiority of the ships built here to those sent from England.

Teak-made ships were expensive it is true, but both Gross and Staverinus testify to their durability. The Dutch Admiral was of the opinion that an Indian ship made of Teak Wood would navigate the seas hundred years together. We learn from the same authority that the natives of India, “have a peculiar way of preserving their ship-bottom, by occasionally rubbing into them oil which they call wood oil, which the planks imbibe, and it serves greatly to nourish and keep them from decay”<sup>10</sup>.

Ramchandrapanta Amatya made a note that for construction of ships useful part of teak and trees should not be cut and collected without royal permission. Whatever wood was necessary should be purchased and brought from foreign countries. He added that it was the duty of the king to see that in no case may it be that the wood of the mango tree, jack tree and other trees is used for building naval ships<sup>11</sup>.

It appears that the use of the compass was known to the Marathas. We have already referred that the Indians from early days were using Matsya-Yandra. The Mariner’s Compass as it is called. In Rajavyaharakosha the word dishayantram has been substituted for Kibulnuma, the Arabic word for Compass<sup>12</sup>. The Shivacharitra-pardeepa also noted the use of the Compass by the Marathas.

**THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE ENGLISH,  
PORTUGUESE AND ANGRE'S NAVY :**

**THE ENGLISH FLEET**

Governor Boone on his arrival put his heart in expanding and strengthening the English fleet. He had three ships built for the purpose,, the “Britanica” of 18 guns at Carwar, the “Fame” of sixteen guns at Surat, “Revenge” of 15 guns at Bombay. A few months later, the Victory, twenty-four guns was launched, and two years after his arrival, Boone had at his disposal a fine fleet consisting of nineteen frigates, ghurabs, ketches, gallivats and rowing galleys, carrying two hundred and twenty guns, besides a bomb vessel and a fire-ship<sup>14</sup>. Thus, the English fleet was strong enough to achieve anything in those days.

**THE PORTUGUESE FLEET**

With their possessions extended from Daman in the north to Goa in the south, the Portuguese kept two fleets to deal with their enemies, the fleet of the North and the fleet of the south, with their principal stations at Bassein in the North and Gôa in the South. In the year 1728 A.D. there were twenty one arm boats at Bassein carrying from sixteen to eighteen pieces of ordinance. The Portuguese did not lag much behind the English in the strength of their navy.



### **ANGRE'S FLEET**

We have read that eight to ten ghurabs and forty to fifty gallivats formed the fleet of Angre's navy.

Though Angre's fleet was numerically superior to those of the European on the West coast, it was vastly inferior in artillery and in the art of navigation. As compared with the Maratha war ships the tonnage of the Angre war ships were very low and their artillery greatly inferior.

This is due to the peculiar factors which exerted the development of the Maratha navy. As we will later on see that the authority was in what may be called territorial waters. They had no oceanic policy and their ships were unable to meet the enemies on high seas<sup>15</sup>.

The Marathas therefore did not or could not think of extending their authority over countries or islands outside or beyond the coast of India. They were content if they could have uninterrupted authority over the coast of their state.

Hence Ramchandrapanta Amtaya issued following instructions in his Ajnapatra regarding the size of the warships, "Fast ghurabs, neither very great nor very small should be made of middle size. Similarly galabats should be built. It is not necessary to build them very large ones as these are not useful without the help of the wind. Even if one or two are made to create dread in the enemy still whatever naval force is created should be fully well-equipped with

brave and efficient fighters, guns, shot-guns, match locks, ammunition, grenades and other materials of naval use”<sup>16</sup>.

### **THE ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE MARATHA NAVY UNDER KANHOJI**

Kanhoji's naval establishments were vast. Before he came into conflict with Maharaja Shahu he possessed ten forts and sixteen Mahals<sup>17</sup>. By his agreement with Maharaj Shahu, Kanhoji acquired Rajmachi and a few other forts. In his treaty with the Sidi, the latter returned to Kanhoji many number of places<sup>18</sup>.

From the original papers, it seems that Kanhoji posted his officers - Ammaldars and Subhedars to look after the particular Subha or Mahal.

We have a list of Ammaldars at Suvarnadurga and Subhedars at Vijaydurga.

#### **AMMALDARS AT SUVARNADURGA**

- 1) Dattaji Angre - Kanhoji's cousin.
- 2) Trimbak Ganesh
- 3) Bakaji Naik Mahadik
- 4) Dattaji Jachak
- 5) Haraji Naik Kadam
- 6) Mirza Barge
- 7) Motyajirao Vichare,
- 8) Rudraji Dhulap,
- 9) Baburao Satam,
- 10) Ramaji Patel<sup>19</sup>

### SUBHEDARS AT VIJAYADURGA

- 1) Rudraji Anant Subhedar
- 2) Mahadaji Ballal Subhedar
- 3) Kashi Raghunath Subhedar
- 4) Shivaji Trimbak Subhedar

In his achievements in the Konkan, Kanhoji Angre was assisted by powerful nobles under him, who were honoured by Maharaja Shahu by grants of villages and Palanquin. They were

- 1) Sekhoji Mohite
- 2) Ranoji Gole
- 3) Khandoji Mankar
- 4) Rumajirao Kharade
- 5) Krishnaji Mode
- 6) Hasan Khan Jamadar<sup>21</sup>

Besides the information that Kanhoji had established matrimonial relations with some of these we have almost no information about their achievements<sup>22</sup>.

As regards the organisation of navy, Ramchandrapanta lays down in his Ajnapatra that navy should be arranged in separate units. The unit should contain five ghurabs and fifteen gallivats over all of them there should be one head-governor or admiral<sup>23</sup>.

We do not exactly know as to how the units in Kanhoji's navy constituted and functioned. He must have some such arrangement no doubt. A Portuguese account informs us that Kanhoji renewed



his proposals for exchanging prisoners by the desire of securing the liberty of Shivaji Naik, one of his captains<sup>24</sup>.

The sheltering of Ajnapatra discusses fully as to why the sheltering of ships should not be done in the same place every year. He adds that the fleet should be distributed at various places. The Subhedar should look after the arrangement of the fleet<sup>25</sup>. He should write to the Central Government for getting the necessary things and should make arrangements for the same. Kanhoji Angre must also have some arrangements. We do not know the exact nature of the same.

#### I. NAVAL WARFARE :

Since the beginning of the Maratha navy the Marathas had to fight hard to maintain themselves against no less than six rivals, the English, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the fleets of the Sidi, the Mughal and the Sawant Wadi. As the admiral of the Marathas, Kanhoji claimed the superiority of the sea and compelled the maritime powers as well as the traders of all nations to purchase his passes. The European powers, the English, the Portuguese and the Dutch, with their superior arms and ammunition were not expected to admit Kanhoji's claims unless compelled by superior force to do so. The Maratha Admiral was involved in most of which he proved himself if not superior a formidable equal.

Yet it must be noted that the Marathas achieved these victories against their European rivals in spite of their inferiority in the arms

and ammunition. This is due to the peculiar methods evolved and perfected by them in their engagements with their enemies. The Maratha took all the advantage of the natural position of their land and the equipments at their disposal.

The small Maratha vessels sailed close to the Coast and sought shelter in the familiar creeks and estuaries when pursued by an enemy vessel. The Maratha vessels were noted for their speed. The big ships of the Europeans could not effectively pursue them. The Maratha vessels like the Europeans big ships were not dependent on the wind for their movements. In case of an unfavourable wind these light vessels could be rowed and towed by oars in the desired direction.

Benjamin Hall, Purser of the Derby while giving a detailed account of the fighting method of the Maratha navy notes , “Their ghurabs and gallivats, always keep astern of our ships, so close that there is no danger of their missing you when they fire their power guns, which were six pounders. They tack and give you a broadside, and shear off and lead again. But in the time another ghurab comes up, and fire on us in the same manner, and so goes off, that the next may come. This is the method they take , till they have all fired round, when the first comes up again”<sup>26</sup> Thus they keep continuously firing at the enemy ship.

## II. ACHIEVEMENTS :

To go right perspective of Kanhoji's maritime activities, they must be viewed as a part of the general struggle of the Maratha



nation against the Mughal conquest of their home land. The chief objective to which his policy was directed was to recover Maratha territory occupied by the Sidis during the interim that followed Sambhaji's execution, drive the Sidi to his island, retreat annihilate his independence and render him powerless for mischief<sup>28</sup>. The western seas were to be Maratha waters and all who visited ports established in them were to be taught to repeat the Maratha sovereignty and secure his permission for trading in these water by buying his passes. Whatever power refused to conform to his orders would do so at the peril of bringing on its merchantmen his stronghand. Kanhoji Angre overcome all his adversaries and sucessfully maintained the claims of the Marathas to the sovereignty of the sea against the Sidi, the Dutch, the English and the Portuguese. He developed the naval unit of the Marathas into a strong navy, which was dreaded by its enemies even after his death till 1756, when a major portion of Angres navy was destroyed by the combined forces of the Peshwa and the English.

At the time of the treaty, with Shahu Maharaj on 18th February 1714, Kanhoji Angre had ten forts and sixteen mahals, the forts being

- 1) Khanderi
- 2) Kolaba
- 3) Suvarnadurg
- 4) Vijayadurg
- 5) Jayagad

- 6) Deogad
- 7) Kanakdurg
- 8) Fettegad
- 9) Awarhitgad
- 10) Yeshwantgad

and the Mahals being

- 1) Bahirogad
- 2) Kotala
- 3) Vikasgad
- 4) Manikdurg
- 5) Mirgad
- 6) Sargad
- 7) Rasalgad
- 8) Palagad
- 9) Ramdurg
- 10) Kharepatan
- 11) Rajapur
- 12) Satwata
- 13) Kamate
- 14) Sagargad
- 15) Shrivardhan
- 16) Manranjan<sup>29</sup>

By the treaty of 8th February 1724 between Balaji Vishwanath, the Maharaj Peshwa and Kanhoji Angre, agreed to accept the suzerainty of Shahu Maharaj. The Maharaj appointed him to the

permanent grant of the three districts that comprised the Konkan. Kanhoji was entrusted with the task of guarding the coast. As a result of the treaty of Kolaba, Kanhoji Angre obtained control over ten sea-side forts and sixteen land-side forts. His annual income from the territory placed under his authority was thirty-six lakhs of rupees. He was confirmed as the Sarkhel and Vazarat Ma-aab hereditary perpetuity<sup>30</sup>.

So long as Kanhoji was living, Konkan was safe against all foreigners. In 1715, the Portuguese were supreme at Bassein, Thana, Goa and Chaul; the English at Bombay, and the Sidis at Janjira. Against all these the Angre had to fight constantly and though he could overwhelm any of these, he surely dreaded their combination. After treaty that took place between Shahu Maharaj and Kanhoji Angre through the good offices of Peshwa Balaji Yeshwant all enemies of Angre became the enemies of Maratha kingdom and thus the unity of interest drew Kanhoji even close to the Maharaj of Maharashtra. In one direction at least the treaty contributed to the unity of Maharashtra.

However Kanhoji Angre's war with the English continued with pauses at intervals. When pressed in the other quarters Angre would wave the olive branch and express willingness to make peace. In 1723, the Angre offered to discuss peace terms with William Phillips, the new Governor of Bombay, Phillips haughtily turned down the proposal charging the Angre with piracy; before he could hear of any of the terms, he asked the Maratha commander to renounce



war and as a proof of his sincerity demanded immediate release of prisoners. This called forth Kanhoji's ire, he replied, "If little behaved merchants to say that his Government was supported by violence, insults and piracies; for the great Shivaji founded his kingdom by making war against four kings and that he himself was but his humble disciple; that he was ever willing to favour the merchants trading according to laws of the country" and offered the release of the English prisoners if his men imprisoned by the English were set at liberty.<sup>31</sup> Kanhoji's last act of hostility against the English was the seizure of the company's galley King William in 1728. He died on 4th July 1729, in the plentitude of power and prestige.

The death of Kanhoji Angre forms a turning point in Anglo-Maratha relations which were all along marked with the greatest acerbity on both sides. The Angre's restless energy, resourcefulness and daring had brought the Maratha navy to a high pitch of efficiency and developed into a strong striking force. His authority was supreme in Konkan and his exclusive writ ran in that region. The foreign powers saw in him the represent alive of Maratha authority, the symbol of a mighty nation. Agreement of Kanhoji Angre with Shahu Maharaj strengthened Kanhoji's position with the support of central Maratha power whether in negotiation or in war. Kanhoji Angre also always maintained happy relations with the Central Maratha Government . Kanhoji had close relations with the family of the Peshwa. Balaji Vishwanath regarded Kanhoji as his brother, and we find Bajirao I addressing Kanhoji Angre as Uncle Kanhoji

Kaka<sup>32</sup>. Kanhoji Angre in letter to Bajirao I said that he considered the latter as nearest relative<sup>33</sup>.

We have come across seals of Kanhoji Angre which proved beyond doubt that Angre was acting as a constituent unit of the Central Maratha Government. The first seal ( Seal I ) though imbibed on a letter dated 1720 A.D., the seal belongs to the period prior to Rajaram's death.

It reads,

“Kanhoji, the son of Tukoji, is always at the service of Rajaram”.

Another seal (Seal II) is marked on a letter<sup>35</sup> dated 1728 A.D. The seal belongs to the period after Kanhoji Angre offered his allegiance to Shahu Maharaj.

It reads,

“The Seal of Kanhoji Sarkhel, the son of Tukoji, is victorious because of the love of Chatrapati Shahu”.

The early development in the line of the Confederacy of the Marathas, particularly in the case of Kanhoji Angre can be accounted Kanhoji Angre was a sea power and the Central Government to entangled in the politics overland could little provide attention to the development of the naval power of the Mrathas. This necessitated that the Maratha Admiral should enjoy some special status after he had offered his allegiance to the Maratha Authority.

As already noticed Kanhoji Angre in his letter to the Government of Bombay, wrote that he was a follower of Shivaji, who had laid the foundation of the Maratha state. Kanhoji Angre invariably succeeded against his opponents and maintained unto his last the claims of the Marathas to the sovereignty of the sea.

Even when the Portuguese were at war with Kanhoji Angre the subjects of the Portuguese acknowledged his claims by purchasing his passes. We have already seen that even the General of the North, Louis de Mello, thought it wise to purchase Kanhoji's passes for the safe arrival of the ships of his brother Lope de Mello.

Kanhoji Angre was not only a good soldier he was diplomat also. We have already noticed how he had foiled many attempts of the English and the Portuguese to join hands together against the Maratha Admiral. From 1715 to 1724 A.D. Kanhoji had almost secured the neutrality of the Sidi and hence the complaints of the English and the Portuguese to the Mughal Emperor against the Sidi. In his arguments also Kanhoji had won against the English. Kanhoji wrote persuasive, threatening and sarcastic letters as the occasion demanded.

Kanhoji Angre could not be accused of treachery or faithlessness. Usually Kanhoji kept his words. But at the same time Kanhoji could not tolerate being cheated by others. Kanhoji agreed that he would not molest ships belonging to the English. But he would not allow the ships carrying the cargo of other merchants,

the same facilities which was a definite loss to him. He indeed wrote it was as if the Company wants to carry trade under its Colours.

Kanhoji Angre never violated the treaty concluded with Shahu Maharaj or with Portuguese on behalf of Shahu Maharaj. We have already referred to the treaty concluded by Bajirao I with the Portuguese in January 1722 A.D. Kanhoji's fleet met some Portuguese boats in October 1722 A.D. but allowed them to proceed on their journey as soon as their nationality was known.<sup>36</sup> In the next year Kanhoji even permitted some Portuguese vessels to take provisions at the port of Vijajyadurga<sup>37</sup>. We have it from the Portuguese that Kanhoji never interfered with the Portuguese merchant men or fleet unless they were at war with him.

Thus Kanhoji Angre enforced the Maratha claims on the sea against the mighty European powers such as the English, the Portuguese and the Dutch till his death. Shivaji had laid the foundation of the Maratha navy. During the period following Shivaji's death and the invasion of the Emperor Aurangzeb it was hardly expected that the Maratha Navy would service. But Kanhoji Angre with vigorous efforts strengthened the small naval unit of the Marathas into a powerful naval power, which was dreaded by the European powers in India. All their efforts to crush the naval power of Kanhoji Angre proved futile. Kanhoji Angre indeed placed the Maratha Navy on a secure footing. Kanhoji died on 4th July 1729. Kanhoji's death brought about a change in the situation and resulted in new alignment. Kanhoji Angre left six sons, two legitimate Sekhoji and Sambhaji

and four illegitimate, Tulaji, Manaji, Dhondji and Yasaji. Sekhoji became a Sarkhel by establishing himself at Kolaba. Sambhaji the younger established at Suvarnadurg in Ratnagiri. This division greatly reduced the power of the Angre. Sekhoji was most capable and sanest among them.

### **STEPS TAKEN BY THE PESHWA TO WEAKEN THE ANGRE POWER :**

On hearing from the Brahmendra Swami Dhavadshikar how Sidi ruin the temple of Parshuram, Maharaj Shahu decided to send expedition against the Sidi. He deputed the Pratinidhi in Konkan. But the affairs of the Konkan fell into disorder on account of quarrels between Sekhoji and his brother Sambhaji. This was fermented by Bajirao and Brahmendra Swami to weaken the Angre's power.

In the reign of Sekhoji Angre, the importance of Kolaba as a naval checkpost, increased still more. In November 1730 he led nine ships and four ghurabs and caught the English fleet in the sea near Revadanda and Thervanda. Having vanquished them, he brought the English ships to Kolaba. The details of this battle can be found in the historical poem (Powada) by Shaiv-Mayuresh, a poet during the Angre period.

On May 26, 1733, Bajirao wrote to Ambajipant Purandare, Sarkhel. Sekhoji Angre came and stayed here nearly for fifteen days. Having got a hint, he ransacked Rajpuri Khokari. He became the





leader and the rest of the army followed him in looting. Whatever was found was sent to Kolaba. We did not know anything about the ransack, he gave some of it to them. There were five ghurabs and some ships which were sent to Colaba. Since his residence and Kolaba were not well protected, he had to go. Manaji has kept nearly seven to eight hundred people here. Baankot is under the Sarkhel. He has agreed to collect some selected people and attack Underi. (Purandare Daftar I letter No. 104) This extract reveals the working of the minds of Bajirao and Sekhoji as well as the original naval power and increased power of Kolaba. Bajirao Peshwa also resolved to take up the Konkan affairs in his hand with the intention of becoming supreme in the Konkan by liquidating the Sidi, the Portuguese and the Angre. On his arrival in Konkan, Bajirao set Sekhoji against Pratinidhi. Sekhoji's Sardar Bakaji Naik who wanted to invest Govalkot which was in the possession of Sidi got advice from the Pratinidhi to desist from the attack as the Sidi had promised him (Pratinidhi to pay his respect to Shahu Maharaj at Satara and stop the war provided the Angre was driven out of Konkan. Bakaji Naik went back to his master Sekhoji Angre and spoke the mind of the Pratinidhi. After getting disappointed with the performance of the Pratinidhi in Konkan, Shahu Maharaj called him back and asked Bajirao to take supreme command of Konkan expedition. While Pratinidhi was in Konkan Bajirao after arriving in Konkan suggested to Sekhoji three alternatives for prosecuting the Konkan campaign. Thereupon Sekhoji requested Bajirao to take up full command of the expedition against Sidi and lead campaign

by his side to serve and assist him. In the operation against the Sidis, the whole Angre family was assisting Peshwa Bajirao. Sekhoji maintained most cordial relations with the Peshwa. But after his death at Alibag on 28th August 1733 his brother Sambhaji came to Kolaba and took up the command of the fleet. His relations with the Peshwa were not friendly. Between Sekhoji and Sambhaji there was a longstanding feud. As Bajirao had supported Sekhoji, Sambhaji started giving scant respect to the Peshwa's orders. When Sambhaji took command of the Kolaba fleet, the Peshwa asked him to meet him at Rajapuri for personal discussion. Sambhaji declined to meet the Peshwa. Thus Sambhaji insulted the Peshwa. Sambhaji wanted to do away with Manaji whom he suspected as partisan of the Peshwa and Brahmendra Swami. When Manaji suspected treacherous behaviour of his brother Sambhaji towards him, Manaji got assistance from the Peshwa who repulsed Sambhaji's attack. Because of Sambhaji's hectic behaviour he became unpopular with Bajirao, Brahmendra Swami and Shahu Maharaj.

There was a tussle between the two brothers Sambhaji and Manaji after the death of Sekhoji. It resulted in the besiege of Kolaba by both of them. Sambhaji expelled Manaji from Kolaba, forced him to take asylum with the Portuguese at Revadanda and with the assistance from the Peshwa Manaji captured Kolaba in 1735. Of course, the defeated Sambhaji had to go to Suvarna Durg. Having arrested Dhondaji in February 1735 Manaji established his power and started his administration.

After the unique battle of Bassein, the Portuguese power in the north Konkan was totally wiped out. In the discussion over the Portuguese treaty, Chimaji Appa conveyed to the English envoy "Both the Angres were pirates, robbers, senseless impolitic fellows". Inchbird agreed, saying "they were past all cure and it was labour in vain to reclaim them". Chimaji told the envoy that "if the English were ready to act in co-operation with a Maratha force to destroy the pirate next season he would himself come down and join the English in taking all Angre's forts and country.

The Peshwa's treaty ending the war with the Portuguese contained an article which provided for joint action for destroying the Angre. This shows how Angre's activities in Konkan were running counter to the interest of the Peshwa.

Palace politics between Manaji and Sambhaji once again in 1740 assumed disastrous dimensions. Sambhaji, along with his naval fleet came to village Sarkhel in March and hoisted his flag on the Hirakote of Alibag which proved to be the beginning of the war of Kolaba. But Chimaji Appa and Nana Saheb were quite abreast of the moves of Sambhaji. They captured Pali, Meergad and Uran and just turned towards Kolaba, Sambhaji had to flee from there. Sambhaji died on 30th June, 1743 and the first phase of palace politics came to an end.

In 1752 the relation between Manaji Angre and Ramaji Mahadeo, Peshwa's subhedar of Saashti and Uran were strained and resulted into battle. Ramaji's spys in Kolaba were caught and

executed by the Angre. Ramaji Mahadev contrived to persuade Moraji Sind and the two fold war on land and at sea between the Angre and the Peshwa was started.

In the naval skirmish of October, 1752 veterans like Yashwantrao Surve and Kanhoji Shirke died. Many fisherman on the side of Angre also died. The uncertainty of war continued till January 1754. Moraji Shinde the Subedar of Revdanda made preparations once again, to attack Kolaba. On January 22, Manaji attacked Shinde and defeated him. Anandrao Balkavade the Subhedar of Awachitgad, who joined this war on the side of Shinde died in this battle. The people of Angre looted a little but afterwards, Moraji had to lift up the siege and go back. When the Peshwa learnt about it he reprimanded Moraji and about it he and Ramaji Mahadev and ordered them not to harass the Angre of Kolaba. Finally, the war stopped, for the first time, we get the detailed account of this war.

Sarkhel Tulaji Angre who got his Sarkhelship on 11th January 1745 became more powerful. He was attacked by the English fleet and the Peshwa's fleet and army in February 1756. Before that Admiral Watson who participated in the siege of Gheria and destruction of Angre's navy described Tulaji's teritory as follows: "His territories extended from Bombay to Malvan to the South a sea port about 120 miles from it and they spread inland near 76 miles. He had four excellent ports including Dabhol, island of Khanderi and Underi. He was residing in the fort of Alibag and

Kolaba. These places were well peopled and the inhabitants were quite submissive to their sovereign. Gheria his naval base has an excellent harbour in which the tide rise and falls as regularly as in the river Thames.

After destruction of Angre's navy in 1756 the English acquired Bankot and 12 villages and the Peshwa got rest of the territory of the Angre in Konkan except the territory which remained with the Angre family. In 1759, Raghuji Angre got robes of honour from the Peshwa on the same day, while the cannons were being fired, there was fire for the third time. Rahibai, the wife of Manaji died at Kolaba on September, 1764. Raghoji Angre started the construction of a water tank in the Kolaba fort in February 1766.

For some time let us keep aside the point how far Manaji, Sambhaji and Tulaji, the violent persons of the Angre family were useful to the Maratha state. But it is clear that since all the three were irascible and freakish they were not so helpful to the state as they ought to have been. They were rude with the Peshwa and the king himself as much as they could afford. A streak of this tendency was present in Kanhoji and Sekhoji. But Raghoji Angre was an exception to it. He helped Visaji Pant the resourceful Sursubhedar of the Peshwa and Ramaji Pant in every possible way. In February 1766, some fifteen ships and two ghurabs left Colaba naval base and reached Revadanda, to help the fleet of the Peshwa. Raghuji Angre himself joined Visaji Pant in his expedition of Hate province. Raghuji went to meet Mrs. Parvatibai Peshwe in 1764 when she came to her father's house in Pen.





In May, 1770 Kolaba caught fire once again. This time the fire was all pervading all embracing Pinjar turret, Surya turret and four other turrets, two grainaries, two stables, a small bungalow, old palace and Kanhoba math. All these and many other buildings were burnt to ashes. Some people died of their burns; the Diwan was injured. The total loss ran into some lakhs of rupees Mr. Parasnis has made a mistake of ten years while giving the exact date of this event after referring the original papers.

When her Holiness Mrs. Ramabai, the wife of Madhavarao the great, went on a pilgrimage of Hareshwar and Shriwardhan in 1772, Raghuji Angre and Visaji Pant Sursubhedar went from Kolaba Revadana to greet her so as to show their high regard for her. The Angres offered robes of respect (Najrana). In spite of being the rival and enemy Sidi showed his sense of hospitality and reverence for Ramabai by sending his son, Khan Jada to greet and offer her robes of respect (Najrana). In April, 1774 Angre declared the happy tiding of the birth of Sawai Madhavrao by firing cannons.

According to earlier practice Angre used to raid and confiscate the ships without a permit either from him or from the Peshwa, so as to keep his naval supremacy intact and unchallenged. His navy used to parade constantly to serve this purpose. In January 1783, two ships of an English money lender were caught but his people set them on fire. In 1784, the Angres caught one cargo leader Arabian ships, costing nearly 3 3 1/2 lakhs and brought it to Kolaba. In 1787 and in 1791 one ship respectively was caught. In April

1792 a French ship carrying silk, copper and iron was caught and was emptied at Kolaba.

These events are a testimony to Angres power on the Sea.

In 1787 Kolaba fort caught fire once again, in which Peer Watch tower and the palaces of Angre and Satarkar were burnt completely.

On March 27, 1793 Raghoji Angre died after a short illness for 8 days. After his death, his sons Manaji and Jaysingh rao had a quarrel on the issue of sucession Jaysingh rao drove Manaji who was compelled to seek help from the Peshwa. This time, Madhavrao, the son of Haripant Phadke, attacked Jaysinghrao, on behalf of the Peshwa. Arrangements were made for him to get conns, sailars and all the other required material from Anandrao, Shinde the Subhedar of Revadanda. Madhavrao's army set on fire Yeshwant Paal which was anchored in the creek of Sarkhar, On February 8, 1794 there was a battle between Madhavrao and Dhondbhat Shaiv near Alibag and Varsoli. Second battle was faught at Sangmeshwar in Alibag taluka. In March third battle between Madhavrao and Jaysingh rao took place at Swkhar in which both the sides suffered a terrible loss.

It seems that the second Civil War was more disastrous for the Angres than the first one between Manaji and Sambhaji Angre. During the first Civil war Angre and the Peshwa were so powerful that the third outsider could not meddle with in his own interest.

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The power of the Sidi and the Portuguese was reduced so much that neither of them could make good of it. Though English diplomacy started showing its power, English naval power had not settled till then. In the first Civil War the Angres fought with each other but the third outsider could not turn this feud to his advantage. During the last fifty years the situation changed drastically. During the second civil war though Angre and the Peshwa were the powers to reckon with, the English naval power grew so strong that it could face them simultaneously and keep them under control. In 1753 English navy captured Tulaji's Vijaydurg and returned it but not willingly and not to respect the word of the Peshwa. When they returned it was only a skeleton, mere structure of stonewalks. Vijaydurg episode illustrates how much the English naval power had increased 30 years before this Civil war. The English naval power grew from strength to strength during the last thirty years. The English were eager to make good of the internal rift and turn it to their advantage. Besides, during this period betrayal and conspiracy were growing rampant and since many of the events of this kind happened in Kolaba, Angre's power was undermined. In April 1795 with the help of Arabs people and Hasul Jamadar, Anandibai Angre arrested Jaysinghrao and put him in one of the bungalows in the fort. His assistants were sent to different places like Khanderi and Sagargad. Strangely enough, Jaysinghrao managed his release from the prison and went to Cheul. The battle field was changed and Jaysinghrao got the benefit of it. In September 1796, with the help of Nagoji Angre, Jaysinghrao fled from the Ekveera Bhawani Temple



and captured Hatale of Naagaon, There after Jaysing made three division of his force and marched via Kurul and on 4th September Alibag fell in his hands. (Angre Shakavali p.135). The real rival of Jaysinghrao was not Manaji II but Anandibai Angre, who died in the Kolaba fort on December 3, 1796; she was cremated near Yeshwant gate of the fort. As long as she was alive Jaysinghrao could not capture the fort. The Sidi of Janjira thought it would be better if he could interfere in palace politics and could turn it to his advantage. Some ships of Sidi's fleet. It started turning towards Janjira but Jaysinghrao chased them upto Padmadurg.

Manaji II had lost all hopes of getting the title of Sarkhel, but Baburao Angre entered into this merely to extinguish war under the pretext of helping of him. In February, 1797 a skirmish took place between the fleet of Jaysinghrao and Baburao, in which Jaysinghrao came out triumphantly. In the month of March, there was a meeting between Jaysinghrao and Manaji II in 1797, it appeared this civil war would come to an end and Jaysinghrao would be the Admiral. But at the end of this year, Baburao Angre who got help from Scindias army entered into the territory on 18th January 1798. Jaysinghrao was arrested and in 1799 all the forts of Jaysinghrao, except Khanderi were captured by Baburao, who became the Sarkhel. In this way the civil war between various persons of Angre family routed many members of renown and ended in weakening the Angre dynasty. After Baburao Manaji II became the Admiral again. But now the rowers and property of Angre was

in its wane and how long it would survive was the thing of everybody's guess. In brief, it can be said that nearly 10-12 persons of great ability family lost their lives in this Civil War and in later years this state had to be merged for want of legal heir. To some extent Tulaji and his successors may also be blamed for the downfall of the Angres, as they could not adjust themselves to the changed circumstances.

On the advice of Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath Shahu Maharaj marked Konkan as Angre's sphere of influence and gave him a free rein in that field. Bajirao I and his son thought of advancing their power in Konkan. The Peshwas got advantage of failure of the Angre brothers in coming to an understanding among themselves and their neighbours. The Peshwa made arrangement to isolate the naval command and dry up the sources of the Maratha fleet. To keep alive his fleet Tulaji Angre entered into a war with the Sawant, Vishalgad, Bavada and Kolhapur. Not only that, he also raided Malbar ports and preyed on merchant shipping. His activities on land and sea made him repugnant to all Maratha chiefs and foreign maritime powers - the English, the Portuguese and the Dutch. The Peshwa in his capacity as the head of the state and the supreme law giver, took it upon himself to champion the cause of the smaller chieftains and entered into alliance with the English to subdue and uproot Tulaji Angre. Destruction of Angre's power was complete in 1756. Here Balaji Bajirao made a mistake in seeking foreign help in domestic affairs. Thereafter the English tried their best to play



the game of diplomacy and could emerge as a strong power because the native powers were divided among themselves. Even then the presence of the Angres on the west coast adversely affected the English in Bombay. The trade of the English suffered, their ships were captured, their men were taken prisoners and their goods were seized. As the Angres who were divided among themselves began quarrelling amongst themselves. This division weakened their strength and reduced their capacity to harm the English at Bombay. The English kept up their dissension. This policy yielded rich dividends and resulted in complete ruin of the house of the Angres.



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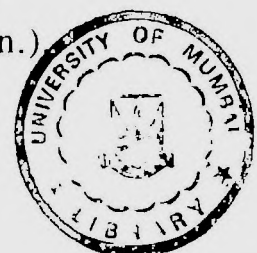
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**HISTORY OF THE ANGRES OF KOLABA**  
(1640 to 1840 A. D.)

A Thesis Submitted  
To  
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For

7770

The Degree of  
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IN HISTORY

BY  
**MRS. AMITA TATHARE**

7770

UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF  
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## **CHAPTER X**

### **ANGRE'S NAVY, THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **AND ASSESSMENT**

The founder of the Angre family was Tukoji Sankpal and Kanhoji was his son. He got his name Angre from Angrewadi village in Maval hills, six miles from Poona. During the 18th century, Kanhoji rose to high power both in Kolaba and in Ratnagiri Districts. He worked as second-in-command to Sidoji Gujar, the Sar-Subha of the Maratha navy and when the latter died in 1698 Kanhoji succeeded him. He became admiral of the Marathas. In his capacity as the admiral of the Marathas, Kanhoji did lay his sway over the Sidi of Janjira, the Mughals of Delhi as well as the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English upon the west coast of India. Before explaining Kanhoji's maritime achievements let us state the strength and the organisation of the Angre's navy.

#### **TYPES OF MARATHA WARSHIPS UNDER THE ANGRES :**

We have information about the following main war-ships of the Angres' navy - They were exclusively used as fighting ships: (1) Ghurab, (2) Galabata, (3) Pala, (4) Shibada, (5) Manchwa.

We will make a brief survey of each these types.

#### **(1) GHURAB :**

The Ghurab of the Angre were of two types - two masts upto 150 tons and three masts upto 300 tons. They were broad

in proportion to their length and narrowed from the middle to the ends, where instead of bows they had prow, projecting like that of a Mediterranean gallery. The prow was covered with a strong deck level with the main deck of the vessel and separated from it by a bulk head and firing over the prow. Orme notes that on the main deck under the forecastle were mounted two pieces of cannon of nine or twelve pounders<sup>1</sup>. A ghurab never went into action unless it was accompanied by one or more gallivats.

#### (2) GALABATA

The Galabata - Gallivats as they were called were large row-boats built like ghurab but of smaller size not more than 70 tons. They had two masts a strong main mast of which the mizzen was very slight. The main mast was a regular triangular sail. They had forty to fifty oars and rowed four miles a hour.<sup>2</sup>

#### (3) PALA

The Pala seems to be the largest of all the Maratha ships. It was too big to enter the narrow creek where the galabats and smaller ghurab could go and had to be moored in deeper waters.<sup>3</sup> It resembled the Ghurab in built, having the same rigging. We have no detailed information to differentiate a pala from other vessels. It has been likened by an eighteenth century Portuguese writer with the frigates of Europe.<sup>4</sup>

#### (4) SHIBADA

The Shibada of the later Maratha period had two masts. the after-mast and the bow print were very short. It had not top-sails



very little rigging and was not decked. Its largest sail was stretched on a yard of very great length running to a point many feet higher than the mast. The Shibada sailed well and were fine vessels in fair weather and smooth water. Many were more than 150 tons<sup>5</sup>. They accompanied the ghurab and the pala with light armaments<sup>6</sup>. Hamilton calls a Shibada a half gallery<sup>7</sup>.

#### (5) MANCHWA

The Manchwas accompanied war-ships in case of emergency. Gemelli Careri, who travelled in a Portuguese Manchwa in 1695, describes it as follows -

“These Manchwas had such a Main Sail as the Lentis of Trapan in the kingdom of Sicily, 12 cars and four small guns<sup>8</sup>”.

Eight or ten of these ghurabs and forty or fifty gallivats formed the whole fleet of Kanhoji Angre<sup>9</sup>. On an average a galabata carried hundred men on its board and a ghurab two hundred or more than one hundred and fifty.

The ship itself were under the charge of the Nakhoda, the captain. He had one or two assistants known as Tandels. The Tandels were men of all work combining several duties, connected with rowing of the ships, the handling of the sails, keeping stock of food and water and even acting as cheer leaders<sup>10</sup>.

#### SHIP BUILDING AND THE NATIVE SHIP BUILDERS

As already referred to, there was no dearth of ship building material on the West coast of India as the forests of Konkan yielded

excellent timber. A letter from Surat to London dated 2nd November 1668 alludes to the superiority of the ships built here to those sent from England.

Teak-made ships were expensive it is true, but both Gross and Staverinus testify to their durability. The Dutch Admiral was of the opinion that an Indian ship made of Teak Wood would navigate the seas hundred years together. We learn from the same authority that the natives of India, “have a peculiar way of preserving their ship-bottom, by occasionally rubbing into them oil which they call wood oil, which the planks imbibe, and it serves greatly to nourish and keep them from decay”<sup>10</sup>.

Ramchandrapanta Amatya made a note that for construction of ships useful part of teak and trees should not be cut and collected without royal permission. Whatever wood was necessary should be purchased and brought from foreign countries. He added that it was the duty of the king to see that in no case may it be that the wood of the mango tree, jack tree and other trees is used for building naval ships<sup>11</sup>.

It appears that the use of the compass was known to the Marathas. We have already referred that the Indians from early days were using Matsya-Yandra. The Mariner’s Compass as it is called. In Rajavyaharakosha the word dishayantram has been substituted for Kibulnuma, the Arabic word for Compass<sup>12</sup>. The Shivacharitra-pardeepa also noted the use of the Compass by the Marathas.

**THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE ENGLISH,  
PORTUGUESE AND ANGRE'S NAVY :**

**THE ENGLISH FLEET**

Governor Boone on his arrival put his heart in expanding and strengthening the English fleet. He had three ships built for the purpose,, the “Britanica” of 18 guns at Carwar, the “Fame” of sixteen guns at Surat, “Revenge” of 15 guns at Bombay. A few months later, the Victory, twenty-four guns was launched, and two years after his arrival, Boone had at his disposal a fine fleet consisting of nineteen frigates, ghurabs, ketches, gallivats and rowing galleys, carrying two hundred and twenty guns, besides a bomb vessel and a fire-ship<sup>14</sup>. Thus, the English fleet was strong enough to achieve anything in those days.

**THE PORTUGUESE FLEET**

With their possessions extended from Daman in the north to Goa in the south, the Portuguese kept two fleets to deal with their enemies, the fleet of the North and the fleet of the south, with their principal stations at Bassein in the North and Gôa in the South. In the year 1728 A.D. there were twenty one arm boats at Bassein carrying from sixteen to eighteen pieces of ordinance. The Portuguese did not lag much behind the English in the strength of their navy.



### **ANGRE'S FLEET**

We have read that eight to ten ghurabs and forty to fifty gallivats formed the fleet of Angre's navy.

Though Angre's fleet was numerically superior to those of the European on the West coast, it was vastly inferior in artillery and in the art of navigation. As compared with the Maratha war ships the tonnage of the Angre war ships were very low and their artillery greatly inferior.

This is due to the peculiar factors which exerted the development of the Maratha navy. As we will later on see that the authority was in what may be called territorial waters. They had no oceanic policy and their ships were unable to meet the enemies on high seas<sup>15</sup>.

The Marathas therefore did not or could not think of extending their authority over countries or islands outside or beyond the coast of India. They were content if they could have uninterrupted authority over the coast of their state.

Hence Ramchandrapanta Amtaya issued following instructions in his Ajnapatra regarding the size of the warships, "Fast ghurabs, neither very great nor very small should be made of middle size. Similarly galabats should be built. It is not necessary to build them very large ones as these are not useful without the help of the wind. Even if one or two are made to create dread in the enemy still whatever naval force is created should be fully well-equipped with

brave and efficient fighters, guns, shot-guns, match locks, ammunition, grenades and other materials of naval use”<sup>16</sup>.

### **THE ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE MARATHA NAVY UNDER KANHOJI**

Kanhoji's naval establishments were vast. Before he came into conflict with Maharaja Shahu he possessed ten forts and sixteen Mahals<sup>17</sup>. By his agreement with Maharaj Shahu, Kanhoji acquired Rajmachi and a few other forts. In his treaty with the Sidi, the latter returned to Kanhoji many number of places<sup>18</sup>.

From the original papers, it seems that Kanhoji posted his officers - Ammaldars and Subhedars to look after the particular Subha or Mahal.

We have a list of Ammaldars at Suvarnadurga and Subhedars at Vijaydurga.

#### **AMMALDARS AT SUVARNADURGA**

- 1) Dattaji Angre - Kanhoji's cousin.
- 2) Trimbak Ganesh
- 3) Bakaji Naik Mahadik
- 4) Dattaji Jachak
- 5) Haraji Naik Kadam
- 6) Mirza Barge
- 7) Motyajirao Vichare,
- 8) Rudraji Dhulap,
- 9) Baburao Satam,
- 10) Ramaji Patel<sup>19</sup>



### SUBHEDARS AT VIJAYADURGA

- 1) Rudraji Anant Subhedar
- 2) Mahadaji Ballal Subhedar
- 3) Kashi Raghunath Subhedar
- 4) Shivaji Trimbak Subhedar

In his achievements in the Konkan, Kanhoji Angre was assisted by powerful nobles under him, who were honoured by Maharaja Shahu by grants of villages and Palanquin. They were

- 1) Sekhoji Mohite
- 2) Ranoji Gole
- 3) Khandoji Mankar
- 4) Rumajirao Kharade
- 5) Krishnaji Mode
- 6) Hasan Khan Jamadar<sup>21</sup>

Besides the information that Kanhoji had established matrimonial relations with some of these we have almost no information about their achievements<sup>22</sup>.

As regards the organisation of navy, Ramchandrapanta lays down in his Ajnapatra that navy should be arranged in separate units. The unit should contain five ghurabs and fifteen gallivats over all of them there should be one head-governor or admiral<sup>23</sup>.

We do not exactly know as to how the units in Kanhoji's navy constituted and functioned. He must have some such arrangement no doubt. A Portuguese account informs us that Kanhoji renewed

his proposals for exchanging prisoners by the desire of securing the liberty of Shivaji Naik, one of his captains<sup>24</sup>.

The sheltering of Ajnapatra discusses fully as to why the sheltering of ships should not be done in the same place every year. He adds that the fleet should be distributed at various places. The Subhedar should look after the arrangement of the fleet<sup>25</sup>. He should write to the Central Government for getting the necessary things and should make arrangements for the same. Kanhoji Angre must also have some arrangements. We do not know the exact nature of the same.

#### I. NAVAL WARFARE :

Since the beginning of the Maratha navy the Marathas had to fight hard to maintain themselves against no less than six rivals, the English, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the fleets of the Sidi, the Mughal and the Sawant Wadi. As the admiral of the Marathas, Kanhoji claimed the superiority of the sea and compelled the maritime powers as well as the traders of all nations to purchase his passes. The European powers, the English, the Portuguese and the Dutch, with their superior arms and ammunition were not expected to admit Kanhoji's claims unless compelled by superior force to do so. The Maratha Admiral was involved in most of which he proved himself if not superior a formidable equal.

Yet it must be noted that the Marathas achieved these victories against their European rivals in spite of their inferiority in the arms

and ammunition. This is due to the peculiar methods evolved and perfected by them in their engagements with their enemies. The Maratha took all the advantage of the natural position of their land and the equipments at their disposal.

The small Maratha vessels sailed close to the Coast and sought shelter in the familiar creeks and estuaries when pursued by an enemy vessel. The Maratha vessels were noted for their speed. The big ships of the Europeans could not effectively pursue them. The Maratha vessels like the Europeans big ships were not dependent on the wind for their movements. In case of an unfavourable wind these light vessels could be rowed and towed by oars in the desired direction.

Benjamin Hall, Purser of the Derby while giving a detailed account of the fighting method of the Maratha navy notes , “Their ghurabs and gallivats, always keep astern of our ships, so close that there is no danger of their missing you when they fire their power guns, which were six pounders. They tack and give you a broadside, and shear off and lead again. But in the time another ghurab comes up, and fire on us in the same manner, and so goes off, that the next may come. This is the method they take , till they have all fired round, when the first comes up again”<sup>26</sup> Thus they keep continuously firing at the enemy ship.

## II. ACHIEVEMENTS :

To go right perspective of Kanhoji's maritime activities, they must be viewed as a part of the general struggle of the Maratha



nation against the Mughal conquest of their home land. The chief objective to which his policy was directed was to recover Maratha territory occupied by the Sidis during the interim that followed Sambhaji's execution, drive the Sidi to his island, retreat annihilate his independence and render him powerless for mischief<sup>28</sup>. The western seas were to be Maratha waters and all who visited ports established in them were to be taught to repeat the Maratha sovereignty and secure his permission for trading in these water by buying his passes. Whatever power refused to conform to his orders would do so at the peril of bringing on its merchantmen his stronghand. Kanhoji Angre overcome all his adversaries and sucessfully maintained the claims of the Marathas to the sovereignty of the sea against the Sidi, the Dutch, the English and the Portuguese. He developed the naval unit of the Marathas into a strong navy, which was dreaded by its enemies even after his death till 1756, when a major portion of Angres navy was destroyed by the combined forces of the Peshwa and the English.

At the time of the treaty, with Shahu Maharaj on 18th February 1714, Kanhoji Angre had ten forts and sixteen mahals, the forts being

- 1) Khanderi
- 2) Kolaba
- 3) Suvarnadurg
- 4) Vijayadurg
- 5) Jayagad

- 6) Deogad
- 7) Kanakdurg
- 8) Fettegad
- 9) Awarhitgad
- 10) Yeshwantgad

and the Mahals being

- 1) Bahirogad
- 2) Kotala
- 3) Vikasgad
- 4) Manikdurg
- 5) Mirgad
- 6) Sargad
- 7) Rasalgad
- 8) Palagad
- 9) Ramdurg
- 10) Kharepatan
- 11) Rajapur
- 12) Satwata
- 13) Kamate
- 14) Sagargad
- 15) Shrivardhan
- 16) Manranjan<sup>29</sup>

By the treaty of 8th February 1724 between Balaji Vishwanath, the Maharaj Peshwa and Kanhoji Angre, agreed to accept the suzerainty of Shahu Maharaj. The Maharaj appointed him to the



permanent grant of the three districts that comprised the Konkan. Kanhoji was entrusted with the task of guarding the coast. As a result of the treaty of Kolaba, Kanhoji Angre obtained control over ten sea-side forts and sixteen land-side forts. His annual income from the territory placed under his authority was thirty-six lakhs of rupees. He was confirmed as the Sarkhel and Vazarat Ma-aab hereditary perpetuity<sup>30</sup>.

So long as Kanhoji was living, Konkan was safe against all foreigners. In 1715, the Portuguese were supreme at Bassein, Thana, Goa and Chaul; the English at Bombay, and the Sidis at Janjira. Against all these the Angre had to fight constantly and though he could overwhelm any of these, he surely dreaded their combination. After treaty that took place between Shahu Maharaj and Kanhoji Angre through the good offices of Peshwa Balaji Yeshwant all enemies of Angre became the enemies of Maratha kingdom and thus the unity of interest drew Kanhoji even close to the Maharaj of Maharashtra. In one direction at least the treaty contributed to the unity of Maharashtra.

However Kanhoji Angre's war with the English continued with pauses at intervals. When pressed in the other quarters Angre would wave the olive branch and express willingness to make peace. In 1723, the Angre offered to discuss peace terms with William Phillips, the new Governor of Bombay, Phillips haughtily turned down the proposal charging the Angre with piracy; before he could hear of any of the terms, he asked the Maratha commander to renounce

war and as a proof of his sincerity demanded immediate release of prisoners. This called forth Kanhoji's ire, he replied, "If little behaved merchants to say that his Government was supported by violence, insults and piracies; for the great Shivaji founded his kingdom by making war against four kings and that he himself was but his humble disciple; that he was ever willing to favour the merchants trading according to laws of the country" and offered the release of the English prisoners if his men imprisoned by the English were set at liberty.<sup>31</sup> Kanhoji's last act of hostility against the English was the seizure of the company's galley King William in 1728. He died on 4th July 1729, in the plenitude of power and prestige.

The death of Kanhoji Angre forms a turning point in Anglo-Maratha relations which were all along marked with the greatest acerbity on both sides. The Angre's restless energy, resourcefulness and daring had brought the Maratha navy to a high pitch of efficiency and developed into a strong striking force. His authority was supreme in Konkan and his exclusive writ ran in that region. The foreign powers saw in him the represent alive of Maratha authority, the symbol of a mighty nation. Agreement of Kanhoji Angre with Shahu Maharaj strengthened Kanhoji's position with the support of central Maratha power whether in negotiation or in war. Kanhoji Angre also always maintained happy relations with the Central Maratha Government . Kanhoji had close relations with the family of the Peshwa. Balaji Vishwanath regarded Kanhoji as his brother, and we find Bajirao I addressing Kanhoji Angre as Uncle Kanhoji

Kaka<sup>32</sup>. Kanhoji Angre in letter to Bajirao I said that he considered the latter as nearest relative<sup>33</sup>.

We have come across seals of Kanhoji Angre which proved beyond doubt that Angre was acting as a constituent unit of the Central Maratha Government. The first seal ( Seal I ) though imbibed on a letter dated 1720 A.D., the seal belongs to the period prior to Rajaram's death.

It reads,

“Kanhoji, the son of Tukoji, is always at the service of Rajaram”.

Another seal (Seal II) is marked on a letter<sup>35</sup> dated 1728 A.D. The seal belongs to the period after Kanhoji Angre offered his allegiance to Shahu Maharaj.

It reads,

“The Seal of Kanhoji Sarkhel, the son of Tukoji, is victorious because of the love of Chatrapati Shahu”.

The early development in the line of the Confederacy of the Marathas, particularly in the case of Kanhoji Angre can be accounted Kanhoji Angre was a sea power and the Central Government to entangled in the politics overland could little provide attention to the development of the naval power of the Mrathas. This necessitated that the Maratha Admiral should enjoy some special status after he had offered his allegiance to the Maratha Authority.

As already noticed Kanhoji Angre in his letter to the Government of Bombay, wrote that he was a follower of Shivaji, who had laid the foundation of the Maratha state. Kanhoji Angre invariably succeeded against his opponents and maintained unto his last the claims of the Marathas to the sovereignty of the sea.

Even when the Portuguese were at war with Kanhoji Angre the subjects of the Portuguese acknowledged his claims by purchasing his passes. We have already seen that even the General of the North, Louis de Mello, thought it wise to purchase Kanhoji's passes for the safe arrival of the ships of his brother Lope de Mello.

Kanhoji Angre was not only a good soldier he was diplomat also. We have already noticed how he had foiled many attempts of the English and the Portuguese to join hands together against the Maratha Admiral. From 1715 to 1724 A.D. Kanhoji had almost secured the neutrality of the Sidi and hence the complaints of the English and the Portuguese to the Mughal Emperor against the Sidi. In his arguments also Kanhoji had won against the English. Kanhoji wrote persuasive, threatening and sarcastic letters as the occasion demanded.

Kanhoji Angre could not be accused of treachery or faithlessness. Usually Kanhoji kept his words. But at the same time Kanhoji could not tolerate being cheated by others. Kanhoji agreed that he would not molest ships belonging to the English. But he would not allow the ships carrying the cargo of other merchants,



the same facilities which was a definite loss to him. He indeed wrote it was as if the Company wants to carry trade under its Colours.

Kanhoji Angre never violated the treaty concluded with Shahu Maharaj or with Portuguese on behalf of Shahu Maharaj. We have already referred to the treaty concluded by Bajirao I with the Portuguese in January 1722 A.D. Kanhoji's fleet met some Portuguese boats in October 1722 A.D. but allowed them to proceed on their journey as soon as their nationality was known.<sup>36</sup> In the next year Kanhoji even permitted some Portuguese vessels to take provisions at the port of Vijajyadurga<sup>37</sup>. We have it from the Portuguese that Kanhoji never interfered with the Portuguese merchant men or fleet unless they were at war with him.

Thus Kanhoji Angre enforced the Maratha claims on the sea against the mighty European powers such as the English, the Portuguese and the Dutch till his death. Shivaji had laid the foundation of the Maratha navy. During the period following Shivaji's death and the invasion of the Emperor Aurangzeb it was hardly expected that the Maratha Navy would service. But Kanhoji Angre with vigorous efforts strengthened the small naval unit of the Marathas into a powerful naval power, which was dreaded by the European powers in India. All their efforts to crush the naval power of Kanhoji Angre proved futile. Kanhoji Angre indeed placed the Maratha Navy on a secure footing. Kanhoji died on 4th July 1729. Kanhoji's death brought about a change in the situation and resulted in new alignment. Kanhoji Angre left six sons, two legitimate Sekhoji and Sambhaji



and four illegitimate, Tulaji, Manaji, Dhondji and Yasaji. Sekhoji became a Sarkhel by establishing himself at Kolaba. Sambhaji the younger established at Suvarnadurg in Ratnagiri. This division greatly reduced the power of the Angre. Sekhoji was most capable and sanest among them.

### **STEPS TAKEN BY THE PESHWA TO WEAKEN THE ANGRE POWER :**

On hearing from the Brahmendra Swami Dhavadshikar how Sidi ruin the temple of Parshuram, Maharaj Shahu decided to send expedition against the Sidi. He deputed the Pratinidhi in Konkan. But the affairs of the Konkan fell into disorder on account of quarrels between Sekhoji and his brother Sambhaji. This was fermented by Bajirao and Brahmendra Swami to weaken the Angre's power.

In the reign of Sekhoji Angre, the importance of Kolaba as a naval checkpost, increased still more. In November 1730 he led nine ships and four ghurabs and caught the English fleet in the sea near Revadanda and Thervanda. Having vanquished them, he brought the English ships to Kolaba. The details of this battle can be found in the historical poem (Powada) by Shaiv-Mayuresh, a poet during the Angre period.

On May 26, 1733, Bajirao wrote to Ambajipant Purandare, Sarkhel. Sekhoji Angre came and stayed here nearly for fifteen days. Having got a hint, he ransacked Rajpuri Khokari. He became the



leader and the rest of the army followed him in looting. Whatever was found was sent to Kolaba. We did not know anything about the ransack, he gave some of it to them. There were five ghurabs and some ships which were sent to Colaba. Since his residence and Kolaba were not well protected, he had to go. Manaji has kept nearly seven to eight hundred people here. Baankot is under the Sarkhel. He has agreed to collect some selected people and attack Underi. (Purandare Daftar I letter No. 104) This extract reveals the working of the minds of Bajirao and Sekhoji as well as the original naval power and increased power of Kolaba. Bajirao Peshwa also resolved to take up the Konkan affairs in his hand with the intention of becoming supreme in the Konkan by liquidating the Sidi, the Portuguese and the Angre. On his arrival in Konkan, Bajirao set Sekhoji against Pratinidhi. Sekhoji's Sardar Bakaji Naik who wanted to invest Govalkot which was in the possession of Sidi got advice from the Pratinidhi to desist from the attack as the Sidi had promised him (Pratinidhi to pay his respect to Shahu Maharaj at Satara and stop the war provided the Angre was driven out of Konkan. Bakaji Naik went back to his master Sekhoji Angre and spoke the mind of the Pratinidhi. After getting disappointed with the performance of the Pratinidhi in Konkan, Shahu Maharaj called him back and asked Bajirao to take supreme command of Konkan expedition. While Pratinidhi was in Konkan Bajirao after arriving in Konkan suggested to Sekhoji three alternatives for prosecuting the Konkan campaign. Thereupon Sekhoji requested Bajirao to take up full command of the expedition against Sidi and lead campaign

by his side to serve and assist him. In the operation against the Sidis, the whole Angre family was assisting Peshwa Bajirao. Sekhoji maintained most cordial relations with the Peshwa. But after his death at Alibag on 28th August 1733 his brother Sambhaji came to Kolaba and took up the command of the fleet. His relations with the Peshwa were not friendly. Between Sekhoji and Sambhaji there was a longstanding feud. As Bajirao had supported Sekhoji, Sambhaji started giving scant respect to the Peshwa's orders. When Sambhaji took command of the Kolaba fleet, the Peshwa asked him to meet him at Rajapuri for personal discussion. Sambhaji declined to meet the Peshwa. Thus Sambhaji insulted the Peshwa. Sambhaji wanted to do away with Manaji whom he suspected as partisan of the Peshwa and Brahmendra Swami. When Manaji suspected treacherous behaviour of his brother Sambhaji towards him, Manaji got assistance from the Peshwa who repulsed Sambhaji's attack. Because of Sambhaji's hectic behaviour he became unpopular with Bajirao, Brahmendra Swami and Shahu Maharaj.

There was a tussle between the two brothers Sambhaji and Manaji after the death of Sekhoji. It resulted in the besiege of Kolaba by both of them. Sambhaji expelled Manaji from Kolaba, forced him to take asylum with the Portuguese at Revadanda and with the assistance from the Peshwa Manaji captured Kolaba in 1735. Of course, the defeated Sambhaji had to go to Suvarna Durg. Having arrested Dhondaji in February 1735 Manaji established his power and started his administration.

After the unique battle of Bassein, the Portuguese power in the north Konkan was totally wiped out. In the discussion over the Portuguese treaty, Chimaji Appa conveyed to the English envoy "Both the Angres were pirates, robbers, senseless impolitic fellows". Inchbird agreed, saying "they were past all cure and it was labour in vain to reclaim them". Chimaji told the envoy that "if the English were ready to act in co-operation with a Maratha force to destroy the pirate next season he would himself come down and join the English in taking all Angre's forts and country.

The Peshwa's treaty ending the war with the Portuguese contained an article which provided for joint action for destroying the Angre. This shows how Angre's activities in Konkan were running counter to the interest of the Peshwa.

Palace politics between Manaji and Sambhaji once again in 1740 assumed disastrous dimensions. Sambhaji, along with his naval fleet came to village Sarkhel in March and hoisted his flag on the Hirakote of Alibag which proved to be the beginning of the war of Kolaba. But Chimaji Appa and Nana Saheb were quite abreast of the moves of Sambhaji. They captured Pali, Meergad and Uran and just turned towards Kolaba, Sambhaji had to flee from there. Sambhaji died on 30th June, 1743 and the first phase of palace politics came to an end.

In 1752 the relation between Manaji Angre and Ramaji Mahadeo, Peshwa's subhedar of Saashti and Uran were strained and resulted into battle. Ramaji's spys in Kolaba were caught and

executed by the Angre. Ramaji Mahadev contrived to persuade Moraji Sind and the two fold war on land and at sea between the Angre and the Peshwa was started.

In the naval skirmish of October, 1752 veterans like Yashwantrao Surve and Kanhoji Shirke died. Many fisherman on the side of Angre also died. The uncertainty of war continued till January 1754. Moraji Shinde the Subedar of Revdanda made preparations once again, to attack Kolaba. On January 22, Manaji attacked Shinde and defeated him. Anandrao Balkavade the Subhedar of Awachitgad, who joined this war on the side of Shinde died in this battle. The people of Angre looted a little but afterwards, Moraji had to lift up the siege and go back. When the Peshwa learnt about it he reprimanded Moraji and about it he and Ramaji Mahadev and ordered them not to harass the Angre of Kolaba. Finally, the war stopped, for the first time, we get the detailed account of this war.

Sarkhel Tulaji Angre who got his Sarkhelship on 11th January 1745 became more powerful. He was attacked by the English fleet and the Peshwa's fleet and army in February 1756. Before that Admiral Watson who participated in the siege of Gheria and destruction of Angre's navy described Tulaji's teritory as follows: "His territories extended from Bombay to Malvan to the South a sea port about 120 miles from it and they spread inland near 76 miles. He had four excellent ports including Dabhol, island of Khanderi and Underi. He was residing in the fort of Alibag and



Kolaba. These places were well peopled and the inhabitants were quite submissive to their sovereign. Gheria his naval base has an excellent harbour in which the tide rise and falls as regularly as in the river Thames.

After destruction of Angre's navy in 1756 the English acquired Bankot and 12 villages and the Peshwa got rest of the territory of the Angre in Konkan except the territory which remained with the Angre family. In 1759, Raghuji Angre got robes of honour from the Peshwa on the same day, while the cannons were being fired, there was fire for the third time. Rahibai, the wife of Manaji died at Kolaba on September, 1764. Raghoji Angre started the construction of a water tank in the Kolaba fort in February 1766.

For some time let us keep aside the point how far Manaji, Sambhaji and Tulaji, the violent persons of the Angre family were useful to the Maratha state. But it is clear that since all the three were irascible and freakish they were not so helpful to the state as they ought to have been. They were rude with the Peshwa and the king himself as much as they could afford. A streak of this tendency was present in Kanhoji and Sekhoji. But Raghoji Angre was an exception to it. He helped Visaji Pant the resourceful Sursubhedar of the Peshwa and Ramaji Pant in every possible way. In February 1766, some fifteen ships and two ghurabs left Colaba naval base and reached Revadanda, to help the fleet of the Peshwa. Raghuji Angre himself joined Visaji Pant in his expedition of Hate province. Raghuji went to meet Mrs. Parvatibai Peshwe in 1764 when she came to her father's house in Pen.



In May, 1770 Kolaba caught fire once again. This time the fire was all pervading all embracing Pinjar turret, Surya turret and four other turrets, two grainaries, two stables, a small bungalow, old palace and Kanhoba math. All these and many other buildings were burnt to ashes. Some people died of their burns; the Diwan was injured. The total loss ran into some lakhs of rupees Mr. Parasnis has made a mistake of ten years while giving the exact date of this event after referring the original papers.

When her Holiness Mrs. Ramabai, the wife of Madhavarao the great, went on a pilgrimage of Hareshwar and Shriwardhan in 1772, Raghuji Angre and Visaji Pant Sursubhedar went from Kolaba Revadana to greet her so as to show their high regard for her. The Angres offered robes of respect (Najrana). In spite of being the rival and enemy Sidi showed his sense of hospitality and reverence for Ramabai by sending his son, Khan Jada to greet and offer her robes of respect (Najrana). In April, 1774 Angre declared the happy tiding of the birth of Sawai Madhavrao by firing cannons.

According to earlier practice Angre used to raid and confiscate the ships without a permit either from him or from the Peshwa, so as to keep his naval supremacy intact and unchallenged. His navy used to parade constantly to serve this purpose. In January 1783, two ships of an English money lender were caught but his people set them on fire. In 1784, the Angres caught one cargo leader Arabian ships, costing nearly 3 3 1/2 lakhs and brought it to Kolaba. In 1787 and in 1791 one ship respectively was caught. In April

1792 a French ship carrying silk, copper and iron was caught and was emptied at Kolaba.

These events are a testimony to Angres power on the Sea.

In 1787 Kolaba fort caught fire once again, in which Peer Watch tower and the palaces of Angre and Satarkar were burnt completely.

On March 27, 1793 Raghoji Angre died after a short illness for 8 days. After his death, his sons Manaji and Jaysingh rao had a quarrel on the issue of sucession Jaysingh rao drove Manaji who was compelled to seek help from the Peshwa. This time, Madhavrao, the son of Haripant Phadke, attacked Jaysinghrao, on behalf of the Peshwa. Arrangements were made for him to get conons, sailars and all the other required material from Anandrao, Shinde the Subhedar of Revadanda. Madhavrao's army set on fire Yeshwant Paal which was anchored in the creek of Sarkhar, On February 8, 1794 there was a battle between Madhavrao and Dhondbhat Shaiv near Alibag and Varsoli. Second battle was faught at Sangmeshwar in Alibag taluka. In March third battle between Madhavrao and Jaysingh rao took place at Swkhar in which both the sides suffered a terrible loss.

It seems that the second Civil War was more disastrous for the Angres than the first one between Manaji and Sambhaji Angre. During the first Civil war Angre and the Peshwa were so powerful that the third outsider could not meddle with in his own interest.

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The power of the Sidi and the Portuguese was reduced so much that neither of them could make good of it. Though English diplomacy started showing its power, English naval power had not settled till then. In the first Civil War the Angres fought with each other but the third outsider could not turn this feud to his advantage. During the last fifty years the situation changed drastically. During the second civil war though Angre and the Peshwa were the powers to reckon with, the English naval power grew so strong that it could face them simultaneously and keep them under control. In 1753 English navy captured Tulaji's Vijaydurg and returned it but not willingly and not to respect the word of the Peshwa. When they returned it was only a skeleton, mere structure of stonewalks. Vijaydurg episode illustrates how much the English naval power had increased 30 years before this Civil war. The English naval power grew from strength to strength during the last thirty years. The English were eager to make good of the internal rift and turn it to their advantage. Besides, during this period betrayal and conspiracy were growing rampant and since many of the events of this kind happened in Kolaba, Angre's power was undermined. In April 1795 with the help of Arabs people and Hasul Jamadar, Anandibai Angre arrested Jaysinghrao and put him in one of the bungalows in the fort. His assistants were sent to different places like Khanderi and Sagargad. Strangely enough, Jaysinghrao managed his release from the prison and went to Cheul. The battle field was changed and Jaysinghrao got the benefit of it. In September 1796, with the help of Nagoji Angre, Jaysinghrao fled from the Ekveera Bhawani Temple

and captured Hatale of Naagaon, There after Jaysing made three division of his force and marched via Kurul and on 4th September Alibag fell in his hands. (Angre Shakavali p.135). The real rival of Jaysinghrao was not Manaji II but Anandibai Angre, who died in the Kolaba fort on December 3, 1796; she was cremated near Yeshwant gate of the fort. As long as she was alive Jaysinghrao could not capture the fort. The Sidi of Janjira thought it would be better if he could interfere in palace politics and could turn it to his advantage. Some ships of Sidi's fleet. It started turning towards Janjira but Jaysinghrao chased them upto Padmadurg.

Manaji II had lost all hopes of getting the title of Sarkhel, but Baburao Angre entered into this merely to extinguish war under the pretext of helping of him. In February, 1797 a skirmish took place between the fleet of Jaysinghrao and Baburao, in which Jaysinghrao came out triumphantly. In the month of March, there was a meeting between Jaysinghrao and Manaji II in 1797, it appeared this civil war would come to an end and Jaysinghrao would be the Admiral. But at the end of this year, Baburao Angre who got help from Scindias army entered into the territory on 18th January 1798. Jaysinghrao was arrested and in 1799 all the forts of Jaysinghrao, except Khanderi were captured by Baburao, who became the Sarkhel. In this way the civil war between various persons of Angre family routed many members of renown and ended in weakening the Angre dynasty. After Baburao Manaji II became the Admiral again. But now the rowers and property of Angre was



in its wane and how long it would survive was the thing of everybody's guess. In brief, it can be said that nearly 10-12 persons of great ability family lost their lives in this Civil War and in later years this state had to be merged for want of legal heir. To some extent Tulaji and his successors may also be blamed for the downfall of the Angres, as they could not adjust themselves to the changed circumstances.

On the advice of Peshwa Balaji Vishwanath Shahu Maharaj marked Konkan as Angre's sphere of influence and gave him a free rein in that field. Bajirao I and his son thought of advancing their power in Konkan. The Peshwas got advantage of failure of the Angre brothers in coming to an understanding among themselves and their neighbours. The Peshwa made arrangement to isolate the naval command and dry up the sources of the Maratha fleet. To keep alive his fleet Tulaji Angre entered into a war with the Sawant, Vishalgad, Bavada and Kolhapur. Not only that, he also raided Malbar ports and preyed on merchant shipping. His activities on land and sea made him repugnant to all Maratha chiefs and foreign maritime powers - the English, the Portuguese and the Dutch. The Peshwa in his capacity as the head of the state and the supreme law giver, took it upon himself to champion the cause of the smaller chieftains and entered into alliance with the English to subdue and uproot Tulaji Angre. Destruction of Angre's power was complete in 1756. Here Balaji Bajirao made a mistake in seeking foreign help in domestic affairs. Thereafter the English tried their best to play

the game of diplomacy and could emerge as a strong power because the native powers were divided among themselves. Even then the presence of the Angres on the west coast adversely affected the English in Bombay. The trade of the English suffered, their ships were captured, their men were taken prisoners and their goods were seized. As the Angres who were divided among themselves began quarrelling amongst themselves. This division weakened their strength and reduced their capacity to harm the English at Bombay. The English kept up their dissension. This policy yielded rich dividends and resulted in complete ruin of the house of the Angres.



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